

the sea-shore. Between *Screek* and *Minab* there is no scarcity of either forage or water; and the coast road, from the latter to *Bunder Abbas*, has a number of villages, and a good supply of water.

Lieutenant Pottinger, of the Bombay Establishment, quitted *Nooshky*, in Northern *Mekran*, on the 25th March 1810; and after a most fatiguing and hazardous journey, arrived at *Regan*, in *Nurman-sheer*, the frontier district of *Kerman* to the E., on the 23d of April. He quitted *Regan* on the 28th of the same month, and travelled twenty-nine miles, through a thick jungle, to a small fort, named *Boorja*. From hence he proceeded to the fort of *Nuheemabad*; and from this place travelled sixteen miles, through a fertile and well-cultivated country, to *Jumalle*, another fort. From *Jumalle* he travelled forty-four miles to the city of *Bumm*, for the greater part of the journey over a bare plain, without water or vegetation. The district of *Nurmansheer*, according to Mr. Pottinger, is in length about ninety miles, and in breadth from thirty to eighty. It is bounded on the N. and S. by a range of mountains: those to the S. being much higher, and covered with snow during the greater part of the year. The soil is fertile, the district populous and well watered by streams from the mountains, and the climate hot in the plain, but cold in the mountains. The Afghans were expelled from this district, about eight years ago, by the Persians, who invited different tribes of Balouches to occupy the deserted villages. *Regan* is a neat little town, surrounded by a mud wall, within which the cattle of the inhabitants are

driven every night for protection. The fort is quadrangular, the walls high and in good repair, and flanked with bastions: and there is but one gate, over which a guard is constantly kept, to prevent the entrance of strangers; for it is necessary to take every precaution against the Balouches of *Bunpore* and *Surhud*, who make predatory incursions into *Nurmansheer*. *Krook*, the capital of *Nurmansheer*, and residence of *Rusheed Khan*, the governor, is built in the same stile as *Regan*, but larger, and surrounded by a deep ditch.

The city of *Bumm* was, until the expulsion of the Afghans, considered as the frontier town of *Persia* in this quarter. It is strongly fortified by a high mud wall, flanked with towers, surrounded by a broad and deep dry ditch, has but one gate, and a *bazar* tolerably supplied with dates, milk, and fruit. The city, of late years, has gained much celebrity, as the last refuge of the brave, but unfortunate *Lutf Ali Khan*, the last of the royal family of *Zund*, and the unsuccessful rival of *Aga Mahomed Khan*. The spot on which he was seized, whilst in the act of mounting his horse, is marked by a pyramid, formed, by the order of his cruel conqueror, of the skulls of the most faithful of his adherents. The ruins of *Bumm* testify that it was formerly of much greater extent than it is at present. The fountains are said to have thrown water to an amazing height, and the gardens, which appear to have been walled in, and adorned with elegant summer-houses, produce the most delicious pomegranates.

Mr.

Mr. Pottinger took his departure from *Bumm* on the 29th of April, and travelled forty-four miles, to a village named *Subzistan*, eight miles S.E. by E. of the town of *Tehrout*. The road was good; but the last twenty-eight miles afforded no water. On the 30th he marched twelve miles over a bare plain, seven across the bed of a river nearly dry, and ten across a plain destitute of water; making, in all, twenty-nine miles. He halted at the foot of a lofty range of mountains, twenty-two miles E. by S. of a town named *Rayun*. On the 1st of May he continued his journey for twenty-eight miles, through a desolate and barren country. The mountains were close to the road on each side, and at the sixteenth mile he found water. On the 2d of May he marched from five in the morning until nine at night, a distance of thirty-one miles, and halted four miles beyond a town, named *Mahim*. This is a very pretty little town, and like *Tehrout* and *Rayun*, surrounded by numerous gardens. It is situated twenty-four miles E. by S. $\frac{1}{4}$ S. of *Kerman*, and is the place where the cattle belonging to the governor of the province is usually kept. On the 3d of May he reached the city of *Kerman*, after a march of twenty miles, over a plain encircled by mountains, and interspersed with villages and gardens.

Kerman, or as it is sometimes called, *Serjan* (the ancient *Carmana*), equalled at one period the proudest cities of the empire, and its situation, in the direct road from the northern provinces of *Persia* and *Bockhara* to *Gomeroon*, then the great emporium of the Indian trade,

trade, contributed to the increase of its opulence and prosperity. It has experienced, however, the reverses of fortune: been exposed to destructive wars, domestic and foreign, and repeatedly plundered by an exasperated and licentious army. Though reduced to the utmost distress, it was defended, with the most heroic courage, for several months, in 1794, by Lutf Ali Khan, until it was betrayed into the hands of his rival, Aga Mahomed Khan, by Nujuf Kooly Khan, one of his treacherous adherents. The city was abandoned for nearly three months to the rapacity of the soldiers, the walls and public buildings were levelled with the ground, vast numbers of the inhabitants were put to death, and thirty thousand of them were exiled into the distant provinces of the empire. *Kerman* has not yet, and it is probable never will recover from the effects of this dreadful calamity. The present fortifications enclose but a small portion of the ancient city, which is quite deserted, and in a most ruinous condition. It is situated on the western side of an extensive plain, so close to the mountains, as to be completely commanded by two of them. The walls are high and built of mud, with nineteen or twenty positions in each face, and a dry ditch, twenty yards wide and ten deep. There are four gates, and the *Ark*, or citadel, where the governor resides, is on the South side of the fort. The population is now not more than twenty thousand souls, of which a small proportion are Guebres; there are also Armenians, Jews, and Hindoos in the place. The trade of *Kerman* is still very considerable, and it is celebrated for its manufactures of shawls, matchlocks,

matchlocks, and carpets, which they chiefly export to *Khorassan* and the northern provinces, receiving in return drugs, skins (from *Bockhara*), furs, silk, steel, and copper. These articles, as well as pistachio-nuts, carpets, rose-buds for preserves, and bullion, they send to *India*; and import from hence tin, lead, iron, chintz, wrought silk, spices, indigo, muslin, kheenkhob, gold brocade, china and glass-ware, broad-cloth, hardware, &c. The *bazar* is well supplied with articles of every description, and in one part neatly arched with a fine blue stone, procured in the adjoining mountains. There are nine *caravanseras* within the walls, and numbers of inferior ones, both within and without.

In determining the position of *Kerman*, I have adopted the Latitude of $29^{\circ} 30' N.$, as given in the tables of Naser-a-deen and Ulegbeg. The Longitude has been fixed from the journals of Mr. Pottinger, M. Robio, and several other cross routes by natives.

Mr. Pottinger quitted *Kerman* on the 25th of May, and on the 5th of June reached *Shirauz*, the distance between these two cities being estimated by him at three hundred and ninety miles. For the first one hundred miles of this route he found the country to consist of level, and, in general, uncultivated tracts. It afterwards became more diversified with mountains, which running in short ranges, separate the plains from each other. They are seldom more than six or seven miles broad, but often of a considerable length. There are two or three populous villages on the road; and the town, called *Shehr*

Shehr Babie, or Babics city, has already been mentioned, as lying equally distant from *Kerman*, *Yezd*, and *Shirauz*.

Monsieur Robio, a French gentleman, travelled in 1809 from *Yezd* to *Kerman*, a distance of seventy-three leagues, through a flat and desert country, intersected by mountains, which afford a trifling quantity of brackish water to the inhabitants of a few straggling villages, who cultivate a small quantity of dry grain, in the immediate neighbourhood of their habitations. I have also in my possession the journal of a native, who lately travelled from *Kerman* to *Bunder Abbas*, or *Gomberoon*, a distance, according to his estimation, of one hundred and seventy-seven *fursungs*. For the first fifty-seven *fursungs* he describes the soil as sandy, watered by canals, and better peopled and cultivated than the other parts of *Kerman*. At a place called *Dum Tungha* it was necessary to ascend a steep pass, and from hence the country became rugged and mountainous, affording good pasturage, and partially cultivated. He crossed two rivers in his route: one at a *caravansera*, one hundred and eighteen *fursungs* from *Kerman*; and the other at a large town, named *Sultanabad*, fifteen *fursungs* further in advance. This town is situated at the foot of a pass on the banks of a fine river, and surrounded with gardens and cultivated lands. A tree grows in the vicinity, which produces a fruit, resembling in flavour the quince, but in appearance the coffee-berry. At a place called *Bagh Gulnar*, thirty-eight *fursungs* from *Bunder Abbas*, he entered the *Gurmaseer*, or warm climate; and the
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road continued, for the remainder of the journey, through a sandy plain, impregnated with salt.

The town of *Bunder Abbas*, or *Gomberoön* (the ancient *Harmozia*), is situated in a barren country, in a bay of the *Gulf* of *Ormuz*. It is subject to the *Imam* of *Muskat*, and fortified with double walls. This was, at one time, the first sea-port in *Persia*, and is still a place of considerable trade. The customs amount to twenty thousand *rupees* a year; for which, and the tribute of *Minab*, the *Imam* accounts to the king of *Persia*. Longitude $56^{\circ} 12'$ E. Latitude $27^{\circ} 18'$ N. The fort of *Minab* is situated partly on a hill, and is divided into the upper, centre, and lower forts. The town is large, and the houses built in a much more commodious manner than any Captain Grant had met with during his journey. Close to the fort a small river breaks through the hills, and forms a pass from the eastward. This river, together with the canals made to diffuse its waters, serve as ditches to the fort. The country for forty-five miles round *Minab* is covered with villages, abounds in dates, and supplies all the neighbouring country with grain. Forage is so plentiful, that the cattle of the adjoining districts are sent in great numbers to feed there during the hot season. *

Captain Grant's Journal.

MEKRAN.

MEKRAN (the ancient *Gedrosia*) extends along the *Indian Ocean*, from *Cape Jash* to the borders of *Scind*, which bounds it on the East : on the West and N. W. it has *Kerman* ; and on the North, *Seistan* and *Arokaje*. Alexander the Great, after his conquests in *India*, returned through this province ; and the sufferings of his army, from want of water and provisions, gives us a most disadvantageous idea of the country, which has been represented as unfertile and full of deserts. The people who lived upon the coast had the name of *Ichthyophagi*, or feeders on fish ; the skins of the largest serving them as cloathing, whilst the ribs contributed towards the construction of their habitations.* A long range of mountains, running from West to East, separates the northern from the southern parts of *Mekran*. The northern division is at present known by the name of *Balouchistan* ; and to the East is a small independent state, called *Lus*. My unfortunate friend, Captain Grant, traversed the western part of this country,

* Arrian says that the fishermen on the coast of *Gedrosia* lived in small huts, whose walls were composed of sea-shells piled upon each other, and the roofs of fish bones, the back bones serving instead of rafters.

country, in 1809, from *Guattar* to *Cape Jask*, having proceeded to the northward as far as *Bunpore*. From the report of this excellent and enterprising officer, it appears that the middle parts are entirely mountainous, diversified with valleys and plains, some of which are exceedingly fertile and others arid. The mountains run parallel with the coast, seldom further distant than eight or ten miles; except at *Cape Jask* and *Chobar*, where they approach almost the edge of the sea. The greatest elevation of this chain is at *Surku*, where the streams that rise on the South side flow towards the *Indian Ocean*, and those which have their source on the North side to the *Persian Gulf*. The level plain between the sea and the hills produces abundance of pasturage. Here Captain Grant observed numerous flocks of sheep and camels; and during the whole of his journey, only once experienced a scarcity of water, for the short distance of forty miles between *Zeraween* and *Sereek*. The crops of that part of *Mekran* visited by this gentleman entirely depend upon the periodical rains, which commence in November, and continue three or four months. The produce is rice, dates, wheat, barley, *joaree*, and cotton. The harvest of the dry grain is in the end of March or beginning of April, and that of rice in September. Captain Grant seldom, even in the most unfrequented route of *Mekran*, made a march, without meeting one or two flocks of goats and sheep, amounting to from one to two hundred each. In the low country he frequently encountered droves of two or three hundred camels, and saw individuals possessed of a

thousand head. Oxen are used in agriculture, and the horses are more remarkable for their hardiness than beauty. The towns and villages, most of which are surrounded with a few palm-trees, seldom experience any want of water, which is commonly supplied from wells, and consist of miserable mud huts, defended by a mud fort.

The population of *Mekran* is formed of many different tribes and independent chiefs, of which the Balouches are the most numerous : a middle sized race of men, spare, muscular, and active, and armed with a matchlock, sword, shield, and dagger. The common language of the country is a corrupt Persian, mixed with Scindi, and the generality of the Balouches are of the Soonee persuasion. Those of the centre countries reside mostly in towns : those of the lower countries are scattered over the plains, in hamlets of eight or ten, huts, built of the branches of the palm, and covered with mats ; but the Narrocs of *Bunpore* live in tents of black hair, and remove from place to place, as their flocks or agriculture require their attention. The women of *Mekran* are treated in a different light from those of most other Mussulman countries, being allowed to appear indiscriminately in public. The Balouches take, in general, but one wife, and their chiefs four : they are said to have great influence in the disputes of their tribes. *Mekran* was under the dominion of Nasser Khan, the chief of *Kelat* ; but since his death, which took place in 1795, the authority of his son has completely ceased, and of all the conquests of his father, he now only retains possession of the fort of

Key. The whole force of the country may amount to about twenty-five thousand men, which, in the present state, it would be impossible to collect or induce to act together.

In his journey from *Guattar* to *Jask*, Captain Grant fell in with no less than eleven different rivers, or rather river beds; for he represents the greatest part of them as being dry during the summer, though in the rains they are formidable streams. He only mentions the names of a few of these rivers; to describe which we shall commence at *Guatter*, and proceed West. Here two *nallahs* (as they are stated in his report) enter the sea, one coming from *Surbaz* and the other from *Champ*. The *Neam Khor*, a salt river running through *Purey*, falls into the sea five or six miles West at *Tiz*. The *Cajoo* river has its origin in the hills at *Suroo*; and having united with a small stream, which takes its name from the village of *Hechan*, about twelve miles below *Geh*, disembogues into the sea, between *Roasim* and *Tank*, thirty miles West of *Chobar*. The *Bunpoor* river runs from East to West, and is lost in the sands, forty miles to the westward of that city, after forming a junction with that which passes through the fertile plain of *Lushar*. This river, when Captain Grant saw it, in the month of February, was twenty yards in width and three feet in depth. The *Bunt* river, and another which comes from the hills, not far from *Petab*, join at the village of *Corandul*, and fall into the sea by two mouths. Between *Sudeich* and *Jask* are four small rivers, all of which coming from the mountains fall into the sea.

Chobar,

Chobar, is situated on the East side of an extensive bay, consists of three hundred mat huts and a mud fort. Good water is procured from wells; and although the country is quite barren, it is the opinion of Captain Grant, that after a plentiful year and one month's preparation, a very large supply of grain and dates might be collected. Sheep and camels are also to be procured. This port is now in the possession of the *Imam* of *Muscat*. *Cuserund* is situated in a fertile valley, about twenty-one miles broad, with a river running through it. It contains five hundred huts and a large mud fort. The cultivated part is about eight miles in circumference, and water is abundantly supplied, from twenty-five large springs on the North side up the valley. Wheat, rice, and dates are produced in the greatest abundance; and the town belongs to an independent chief, whose revenue is about one thousand *rupees* a year. *Tiz* (the *Tiza* of Ptolemy) is now reduced to a miserable village of fifty or sixty huts. It lies in a valley, about half a mile broad and two miles long, surrounded with steep hills, except to the South, where it is open to the sea. On the North side of the valley some caves have been excavated on the side of the hill, about one hundred feet above the base: they are about twelve feet in diameter, and seemed to Captain Grant to have been Hindoo places of worship. In one of them was an altar, on which a lamp had been burning, with marks of an animal having been lately slain upon it.

Sereek, the residence of the chief of *Jask*, contains a large mud fort and six hundred huts, situated four miles from the sea and six
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from the hills. The country between *Jask* and this place contained numerous plantations of palms, and abundance of wheat. *Jask* is tributary to the *Imam* of *Muscat*, and pays two thousand five hundred *rupees* a year. It lies two miles from the sea and eight from the hills, and the town consists of two hundred and fifty huts, defended by a mud fort. The water is from wells, and mostly brackish; but the country, to some distance round, has been cultivated. *Pureg* (the ancient *Pura*) once the capital of *Gedrosia*, and termination of the toilsome march of Alexander towards the frontier of *Caramania*, is now a miserable village.

About nine days' journey, in a N. E. direction from *Guatter*, where Captain Grant commenced his march, lies the city of *Kej*, at present the capital, or chief town, of all *Mekran*. The fort is built on a high precipice, under which a river runs; and the town surrounds the fort, which is considered by the natives, from its natural strength, nearly impregnable; and being on the high road from *Candahar*, *Kelat*, *Shikrapoor*, *Khozdar*, *Bayla*, and to the sea-port towns of *Guatter* and *Chobar*, is of considerable importance. The present governor, or *Naeb*, of *Kej*, is Abdullah Khan, of the *Bezunja* tribe of *Balouches*. He holds the city and district, under the nominal authority of Mahmood Khan of *Kelat*, to whom, however, he does not pay any tribute. The revenues of *Kej* are trifling, and the governor, who formerly supported four or five thousand men, has only a
small

small number of Arabs in his pay. The country in the immediate vicinity of it is described as being a flat, arid *dusht*, or tract of waste land, which extends to the southward as far as the sea coast, and in some spots produces great quantities of dates. This flat is in some places intersected by ranges of hills and bare ~~rocky~~ mountains, running North and South, but not advancing to the sea shore. From *Kej* to *Urboo*, a small sea-port, distant about seven days' journey, in an E. S. E. direction, the country is said to be destitute of vegetation and good water; but between the former and *Chobar* it is hilly, and, comparatively speaking, well inhabited.

Punjgoor, or *Punger*, is the name of a small and fertile district, lying about ten days' journey N. N. E. from *Kej*. It is celebrated for the quality and quantity of the dates it produces, and contains thirteen well-populated villages, all of which are abundantly supplied with water from the bed of the river *Burdoo*, a few miles to the northward of them. Three of the villages are larger and more respectable than the others, and the whole are now governed by an independent chief. *Punjgoor* is fifteen days' journey from *Kelat*, by the route of *Khozdar*, and the same distance from *Nooshky* by that of *Kharam*. It is above the mountains separating *Southern Mekran* from the Desert, and, I should fancy, lies in the western continuation of that range, which separates *Lus* from *Western Mekran*. *Wushutee*, or *Meech*, is the general term applied to all that country lying to the westward,

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and on the parallel of *Punjgoor*, and forming the southern boundary of the *Sandy Desert*. It is spoken of as a very mountainous tract, producing in some of its villages grain, sufficient for the consumption of the few wandering shepherds who inhabit them. Water is said to be plenty in this country, except in the months of April, May, and June, when it becomes scarce; dates are also produced, and camels sheep and goats are procurable, but not in great numbers. The people are rather a small delicate race: their arms are a match-lock, sword, and shield, and each village has its own chief, who settles the disputes which arise among the inhabitants.

A native, sent by General Malcolm from *Sonneany* to *Chobar*, makes the distance between those places one hundred and ten Hindostan *cosses*. For the first eighteen *cosses*, the coast was flat, sandy, and arid, with patches of thick jungle, and villages at the end of each stage. The country then became hilly, and at the end of six *cosses* he slept at a village on the banks of the river *Aghor*. For the next nineteen *cosses* the country continued hilly at intervals, and water was procured by the natives from wells dug in the sand. During a march of seventeen *cosses* he passed through several small sea-port towns, with well-water. A journey of nineteen *cosses*, over a desert country, brought him to a town, containing seven hundred houses, principally inhabited by Hindoos: and from hence to *Chobar* he passed through a sandy plain, badly supplied with water, and here and there a wretched village on the sea-shore.

The district of *Lus*, the country of the ancient *Oritæ*,* is of a circular form, and bounded on three sides by an immense range of mountains, separating it from the western part of *Mekran*, *Balouchistan*, and *Scind*. The face of the country is flat and sandy, and produces abundant crops of grain of every description. There are two small rivers, the *Poorulee* and *Wudd*. The former (ancient *Arabius*) rises in the mountains, near *Bayla*, and running in a S. E. direction, falls into the bay of *Sonmeany*, passing that village, about a mile to the N. W. of which it meets the tide. There are four passes through the mountains which encompass *Lus*: two into *Scind*, one into *Western Mekran*, and one into *Balouchistan*. The town of *Bayla*, the capital of *Lus*, is built on the N. E. bank of the river *Poorulee*, containing fifteen hundred houses and six thousand inhabitants, of whom four hundred are *Hindoos*. The present Chief, *Jam Meer Mahomed Khan*, can bring four thousand irregular troops into the field, and enjoys a revenue of fifty thousand *rupees* per annum. The distance from *Bayla* to *Kelat* was reckoned by Mr. Pottinger at two hundred and ninety-three miles, and the road extremely difficult, among passes and mountains. During this journey he passed through several towns and villages, all governed by different petty chiefs, who exercise an independent authority in their own districts, though they are nominally the subjects of *Mahomed Khan*, Chief of *Kelat*.

Sonmeany,

The *Oritæ*, says *Arrian*, dwell near the banks of the river *Arabius*.

Sonmeany, the principal sea-port in *Lus*, is small and mean, and was destroyed in 1809 by the Jouassimees. It is situated on an elevated bank, at the mouth of the river *Pooralee*, which forms a bar about a mile from the town, three fathom deep at low water, and boats can anchor close to the shore. The inhabitants, with the exception of a few Hindoo merchants, live chiefly by fishing. Fresh water is procured by digging in the sand; and it is necessary that the well be immediately filled up, for if suffered to remain open the water becomes salt.

Balouchistan, or the country of the Balouches, by some considered as a province distinct from *Mekran*, properly commences at *Kooshineer* (the hilly road), twenty-five miles N. E. of *Bayla*, or in Latitude $26^{\circ} 35' N.$, from which place it extends to *Nooshky*, seventy-nine miles N. W. of *Kelat*, or in North Latitude 30° .^{*} It is a confused mass of tremendous mountains, through which the road generally leads in water-courses. Flocks of sheep and cattle are numerous in every part of this country, and it also produces great quantities of wheat. The territories of Mahomed Khan, Chief of *Balouchistan*, comprehend all those countries lying between $20^{\circ} 30'$ and 30° N. Latitude, and from 65° to 69° E. Longitude. It is divided into the two mountainous provinces of *Jhalawan* and *Sarawan*, the low country of *Cutch Gandava* to the E., and the provinces of *Zuhree* and *Awand Dyjel*; and to these may also be added the small districts of *Shat* and *Mus-tung*, lying North of *Kelat*.

The extent of this mountainous tract may be computed from Latitude $61^{\circ} 30'$ to 69° N.

Jhalawan is the most southern province of *Balouchistan*; and its boundaries are *Sarawan* on the North *Lus*; and part of *Scind*, South; *Cutch Gandava*, and part of *Scind*, East; and *Kharan* and *Mekran*, West. *Sarawan*, which is the most northern province, is bounded on the North by *Candahar*, South by *Jhalawan* and part of *Mekran*, East by *Zuhree* and *Cutch Gandava*, and West by the desert *Kharan*. Of these provinces very little can be said: they are one mass of mountains, from *Kohun Wat*, on the frontiers of *Lus*, to the desert which divides them from *Candahar*; the length of this stupendous range being about three hundred and fifty miles, but varying in breadth at different places. The mountains are chiefly composed of black or grey stone; but the vallies of *Wudd*, *Khozdar*, and *Sohcrab* seem capable of being highly cultivated, though even in them the earth has by no means a rich appearance, and is likewise mixed with innumerable pebbles: yet, in spite of these disadvantages, those plains produce in favorable seasons very plentiful crops of wheat, barley, joaree, &c.; and in some of the lesser vallies, grass grows luxuriantly and spontaneously to a great height. *Jhalawan* and *Sarawan* are divided into districts, and each district into innumerable *kheils*, or societies. Each *kheil* furnishes its quota of troops, according to its size or the urgency of the service; but as the number of inhabitants in a *kheil* are liable to either decrease or increase every season, this mode of calculating the forces of Mahomed Khan must be very uncertain.

Cutch Gandava is situated at the bottom of the mountains lying S. E. of *Kelat*, and is about one hundred and fifty miles in length, and forty or fifty in breadth. The soil is rich, black, and loamy, and they cultivate every species of grain; as also cotton, indigo, madder, &c. It rains in June, July, and August, and also a little in the spring months. The *sumoom*, or pestilential wind, blows here during the summer months, and many people lose their lives by it. Great quantities of grain are exported from *Cutch Gandava* to the sea-port of *Curachee* and *Sonmeany*, from whence it is shipped to *Muscat*, the coast of *Mekran*, &c. In unfavorable seasons they also frequently carry it up into the mountainous country. *Anund Dijel* lies to the northward of *Cutch Gandava*. The climate is good and the soil excellent: it produces abundance of every thing; and the *Khan* of *Kelat* derives a large revenue from it, considering the size of the district, which is small. *Shal* and *Mustung* lie nearly due North of *Kelat*. They are both smaller than *Anund Dijel*, and are remarkable for their fruits, which are very fine, and sold amazingly cheap. The climate is warmer than that of *Kelat*: the soil is more sandy, but the grain and other products are the same. *Zuhree*, though it is entirely under the *Khan* of *Kelat*, pays very little to him; as its revenues are enjoyed by *Zadir Buksh*, of the *Zuhree* tribe of *Balouches*. The chief town is *Zuhree*, which contains from one to two thousand houses. *Dudur* is the second town, and is nearly as large: beside
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which there are many populous villages; and, on the whole, this is spoken of as the most civilized part of *Balouchistan*.

Kelat, the capital of *Balouchistan*, and the residence of Mahomed Khan, is surrounded by a low mud wall, and contains four thousand houses. The inhabitants are estimated by Mr. Pottinger at seven thousand, of which five hundred, or perhaps more, are Hindoos, to whom every encouragement is given. The palace of the *Khan* is built on a very high hill, on the western side of the town, commanding a complete view of the whole place and neighbouring country, and considered by the natives as impregnable. The *bazar* of *Kelat* is well supplied; and the town has the appearance of opulence, as it is frequented by merchants, and enjoys a considerable trade. Latitude $29^{\circ} 6' N.$, Longitude $67^{\circ} 57' E.$ At the death of Nasser Khan, the father of the present Khan, the extent of the dominions of the chief of *Kelat* was much more considerable than they now are; but internal dissensions, and the weak policy of Mahomed, have considerably reduced them.

Captain Christie and Mr. Pottinger quitted *Kelat* on the 6th of March; the former intending to penetrate through *Seistan* to *Herat*, and the latter to *Shirauz* by *Kerman*. After a journey of seventy-nine miles over a barren and mountainous country, they arrived at *Nooshky*, where they separated. Captain Christie, proceeding to the North, gained the banks of the *Heermund*, as has already been stated, and Mr. Pottinger continued his route through the desert to *Bunpore*. *Nooshky* is a small tract, covering an area of about thirty-six square miles, at
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the foot of the mountains of *Kelat*. It is a sandy tract, intermixed with small hills, which are continually shifting with the wind. A small stream, called the *Kysur*, issues from the mountains, and irrigates a small portion of this country. There are also some small patches of land capable of cultivation; but these frequently fail for want of rain. The natives live under black felts, spread over a frame of wicker-work. During the summer they remove to the neighbouring mountains to enjoy the cool air and water; for the *Kysur* is dry in the hot months. They import grain from *Cutch* and *Seistan*, to pay for which they p'under travellers and caravans. The district of *Gurmsyl*^{*} is a very narrow tract, about five days' journey N. W. of *Nooshky*. It has the appearance of being the dry bed of a river: in many places, it is not half a mile wide, and encompassed on each side by a high bank. It is fertile in grain, which is raised without much labour, owing to a supply of water drawn from the *Heermund* river, which, like the *Niā*, yearly overflows its banks. The inhabitants of this district are notorious for their robberies, and are composed of the outcasts of the surrounding country.

Mr. Pottinger took his departure from *Nooshky* on the 26th of March, and travelled twenty-two miles over a hilly country, to the bed of a river called the *Bell*; through which he continued his journey, on the 27th, for thirty-one miles. The river bed contained a small
 quantity

* This word is probably the same as the Persian term *Gurmascer*, and merely describes a warm climate.

quantity of water, and was of great breadth. The desert rose in cliffs on each bank, the hills were covered with the asafœtida-tree, and a thick jungle grew in the bed of the river, where Mr. Pottinger observed several slabs of white marble. About one hour before he halted for the night, he passed the remains of some extraordinary tombs, built of hewn stone, differing in quality from any to be procured within many leagues of the place. The tombs were of a quadrangular shape, and they had each been surrounded by a wall of curious fretwork of stone. The entrance fronted the East, and there were several large mounds of earth and stone scattered over the desert to a considerable distance. They appeared to be of great antiquity, and the country people ascribed them to the *Guebres*, or worshippers of fire. On the 28th he moved twenty-eight miles over a barren plain, in some parts covered with jungle. At the eighteenth mile he crossed another dry river bed, called *Burdoo*, where he procured a small supply of water from a well, and passed within a few miles of a town, called *Sarawan*, built in the centre of the desert, but supplied with water from the *Bell*. On the 29th he travelled thirty miles, through the district of *Kharan*, over an uninhabited country supplied with well-water. During the 30th, 31st, and 1st April, he travelled sixty-eight miles across a desert, consisting of waves of sand, over which the camels travelled with difficulty; light particles of sand also floated in clouds about the plain, and seemed to be put in motion without any perceptible cause, for there was not a breath of wind at the time.

The

The bed of the river *Burdoo*,* crossed during this route, is described as being a quarter of a mile in breadth, and is said to contain water in the rains, and to enter the sea near *Chobar*, after fertilizing the district of *Punjgoor*. Mr. Pottinger here procured a small quantity of water from a well in the bed of this river; and proceeded twenty miles, on the 2d, over the desert, which became more hard and gravelly. On the 3d the march was forty miles, over a hard desert free from sand; on the 4th, twelve miles, to a small village situated between two mountains; and on the 6th, six miles, through a water-course, where he perceived two small villages, surrounded by date-trees. On the 7th he travelled twenty-eight miles, to the small town of *Dezuc*, the road lying alternately amongst mountains and stony plains: on the 8th, sixteen miles, through the populous district of *Dezuc*. It is a valley between the mountains, about ten or twelve miles in breadth, but of much greater length, and is governed by a chief, who receives one-tenth of the produce in dates and wheat, the surplus of which he exports to *Southern Mekran*, by the route of *Punjgoor*, which is about fourteen days' journey from *Dezuc*. Mr. Pottinger continued his journey on the 9th; and after a march of ten miles over

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barren

Such river beds are frequently mentioned in the march of Alexander through this province; and Arrian says, that the army having encamped near a small brook for the sake of water, the same, about the second watch of the night, being swelled with sudden rains, poured down such a dreadful inundation, that many women and children, as well as the baggage mules, were swept away.

barren and rocky mountains, entered a very extensive plain, composing the district of *Sibb*, governed by a chief, who resides in a small town of the same name. A river, nearly dry, flows through the center of this plain, in the bed of which were several groves of date-trees; but the country, generally speaking, was quite barren. On the 10th marched twenty-eight miles, through a stony plain intersected with hills and ravines, and halted for the night in a jungle, three miles West of a small village. On the 11th the march was twenty-five miles, through an arid country traversed by mountains and river beds, the latter affording a small supply of water. On the 12th Mr. Pottinger travelled thirty-two miles through a river bed, varying in breadth from two hundred yards to half a mile. It was overgrown with jungle, and afforded plenty of water. This river bed, towards the end of the journey, expanded into a flat sandy plain, eight or nine miles in length, bounded by hills. After a journey of about eighteen miles, over a country interspersed with trees, he reached, on the 13th, the village of *Pahura*, the principal town of a small district, governed by a chief named Mehrab Khan, who can bring six hundred troops into the field, and whose authority is acknowledged from *Dezuc* to *Basman*. From *Pahura* to *Bunpore* it is sixteen miles, in a S. W. by S. direction, across a wooded plain, partially cultivated.

The fort of *Bunpore* is situated in an extensive plain, on the summit of a high mound of earth, and is small, and crowded with

mud

mud buildings. The town is composed of but a few wretched huts, occupied by the relations of the chief: the people live in huts in the plain, as their flocks and cultivation attract their attention. The district of *Bunpore* produces grain in such abundance, as to supply the neighbouring country. The force of the chief is three hundred cavalry, well armed and mounted, and fifteen hundred infantry. Leaving this place, Mr. Pottinger advanced to the northward, until he reached a small village named *Basman*, and from thence proceeded in a westerly line to *Regan*, the first town in *Kerman*, in the district of *Nurmansheer*. He calculates the distance at one hundred and seventy-two miles; and found the country a complete desert, in which tolerable water is only to be had during the dry season in two places.

The whole of this most fatiguing and perilous journey was performed by sometimes walking, and sometimes riding on a camel. Mr. Pottinger assumed the character of a Mahomedan pilgrim, and subsisted principally on dates and barley-flour, kneaded into a paste: he passed undiscovered by the natives, and was, in general, treated with kindness.

The climate of *Mekran* is not every where the same; a circumstance easily accounted for, by the great dissimilarity in the nature of the country in different parts. The southern division of this extensive province is proverbially hot: it is, indeed, described by Mr. Pottinger to be so excessive at times, during the *khormee puz*, or date ripening, which takes place in the beginning of August, as to prevent even the inhabitants from venturing abroad. The heats prevail from March to

November; and the months of November, December, January, and February, which is stiled the cold season, are said to be warmer on the coast, than the months of July and August in the mountains of *Balouchistan*. In February and March there are showers from the N. W.; but in June and July, this coast is exposed to all the fury of the S. W. monsoon. N. W. winds prevail during the cold season, and are particularly violent towards the close of it. During the remaining months, the hot winds blow continually in land; but on the coast the air is refreshed by the sea breeze. The hot winds, though not fatal to animal life, destroy every symptom of vegetation, and will, even after the fall of the night, scorch the skin in a most painful manner. The climate of this part of *Mekran* is considered by the people of the neighbouring country as peculiarly unhealthy. The inhabitants are a puny and delicate race, subject to many disorders; which it is probable, however, may arise from the sensual and dissipated lives which they lead. Both men and women are profligate in the extreme, and drink great quantities of an intoxicating spirit, made from the fermented juice of the dates, which is, no doubt, most pernicious in its effects. The immediate sea-coast, and the province of *Lus*, are said to be exceptions, with regard to insalubrity of climate, in this division; and it is an extraordinary circumstance, that a range of mountains, which divides that district from the other parts of the province, has also drawn a line of distinction between the inhabitants, in manners and appearance. The climate of the mountainous region of *Balouchistan* resembles, in a great degree,

degree, that of *Europe*, there being four distinct seasons : spring, summer, autumn, and winter. The heat is at no time unpleasantly great ; but the cold is intense during the months of December, January, and February. At this season, and most part of the spring, it blows without intermission, and sometimes with great violence, from the N. E., attended with heavy falls of snow, sleet and rain. The spring is supposed to commence about the latter end of February, and to continue two months, or perhaps longer, according to the forwardness of the season. The summer continues till the beginning of August, and the autumn until the first fall of snow, or severity of the cold announces the arrival of winter, which generally happens in October. The summer and autumn are described as delightful ; but in spring and winter the fogs, rain, snow, and cold, occasion a variety of complaints amongst the poorer classes, who have not the means of obtaining proper cloathing to guard against the effects of a climate, equally uncertain, and more severe, than that of *England*. That division of *Mekran* which is to the West of the great sandy desert, and extends from the Latitude of $27^{\circ} 40'$ to that of $29^{\circ} 15' N.$, and from the sixty-second to the sixty-fourth degree of E. Longitude, somewhat resembles in appearance the districts of *Sarawan* and *Jhalawan*, but the climate is much more mild, the extremes of heat and cold being seldom felt in this part of the province. In June and July, however, the rains are sometimes so heavy as to destroy the crops of the ground.

The

The *Great Sandy Desert*, is estimated by Mr. Pottinger to extend from the banks of the *Heermund*, to the great range of mountains which separates the southern from the northern division of *Mekran*, a distance of four or four hundred and fifty miles, and from the town of *Nooshky* to that of *Jask*, a distance of rather more than two hundred miles. The sand of this desert is of a reddish colour, and so light, that when taken in the hand the particles are scarcely palpable. It is raised by the wind into longitudinal waves, which present, on the side towards the point from which the wind blows, a gradual slope from the base, but on the other side, rise perpendicularly, to the height of ten or twenty feet, and at a distance have the appearance of a new brick wall. Mr. Pottinger had great difficulty in urging his camel over these waves,* especially when it was necessary to ascend the perpendicular or leeward side of them. They ascended the sloping side with more ease; and as soon as they perceived the top of the wave giving way with their weight, they most expertly dropped on their knees, and in that manner descended with the sand, which was so loose, that the first camel made a path sufficient

* Arrian, speaking of the march of Alexander through *Gedrosia*, says, that every beast of burthen belonging to the army were nearly smothered in deep scorching sand, and that they found many little *tumuli*, or hillocks of sand, which they were obliged to ascend; and where no firm footing could be had, they sunk deep into it, as they would into clay or new fallen snow.

sufficient for the others to follow. This impediment, however, was but trifling, compared to what our travellers suffered from floating or moving particles of sand. The desert seemed, at the distance of half a mile, to be a flat surface, about eight or ten inches above the level of the waves. This cloud, or vapour, appeared constantly to recede as they advanced, and at times completely enveloped them, filling their eyes, ears, and mouths, and causing a most disagreeable sensation. It was productive of great irritation and severe thirst, which was not a little increased by the scorching rays of the sun. The ground was so hot as to blister the feet, even through the shoes; and the natives affirmed, that it was the violent heat which occasioned the sand to move through the atmosphere. Mr. Pottinger indeed remarked, that this phenomena was only seen during the heat of the day. The *sahrab*,* or watery appearance, so common in all deserts, and the moving sands, were seen at the same time, and appeared to be perfectly distinct, the one having a luminous, and the other a cloudy appearance. The wind in this desert commonly blows from the N. W.; and during the hot summer months it is often so heated, as to destroy anything, either animal or vegetable, with which it comes in contact: the route by which Captain Christie and Mr. Pottinger travelled is, therefore, deemed 'impassable, from the middle of May to the end of August. This wind is distinguished, throughout the *East*, by the term of the *bade sunoom*, or pestilential wind. It has been known to
destroy

Literally, the water of the desert.

destroy even camels, and other hardy animals, and its effects on the human frame are said to be the most dreadful that can possibly be conceived. In some instances it kills instantaneously; but, in others, the wretched sufferer lingers for hours, or even days, in the most excruciating torture.

Lead and iron* are produced in the mountains to the S. of *Kelat*; and the inhabitants of the town of *Nal*, whilst digging for those metals, discovered gold and silver, but not in quantities sufficient to defray the expence of working. This country is also said to produce copper, tin, antimony, brimstone, alum, saltpetre, and marble in great quantities. In the vicinity of *Nooshky* sal-ammoniac is so plentiful, that near *Basman* there is a high mountain, called the *Koh Naushader*, or Sal-ammoniac Mountain; at the bottom of which, it is said, there are several springs of water, so hot as to boil meat in a few minutes. All kinds of grain known in *India* are cultivated in the different parts of *Mekran*.

* The method which the natives of this country have of smelting the ore is exceedingly simple; and although it may, at times, leave a trifling portion of the earth mixed with the metal, it is, from its ingenuity, worthy of attention. When a sufficient quantity of the ore is collected, it is placed upon a pile of wood, which is set on fire, and constantly replenished with fresh fuel, until the ore melts and falls to the bottom, when it is separated from the ashes, and found to be considerably cleaner than when first taken from the mine. It is then placed in a pit, made of earthen tiles, so constructed as to admit a fire under it. The ore is again melted in this pit, and a considerable quantity of the dross and dirt removed, by skimming the surface. After this process, the metal is lifted out in a liquid state, poured into hollow cylinders of clay, and then sold.

Mekran There is also abundance of vegetables, such as turnips, carrots, peas, onions, &c. ; and the natives are particularly partial to the stem and leaves of the *asafœtida*-tree, which they roast or boil, and eat with butter, or *ghee*. This plant grows spontaneously on the mountains, and has when ripe the appearance of a cauliflower: the leaves are somewhat similar to beet-root. The gum, which is imported in vast quantities into *Hindostan* from *Khorassan*, is drawn from the stem, close to the root, and sometimes from the root itself; and if the incision is not made when the plant begins to ripen, the plant will crack of itself, and the juice (which hardens in the air) exude from it. Madder, cotton, and indigo, are also cultivated in *Balouchistan*, particularly to the eastward of *Kelat*, and the latter is considered as superior to that of *Bengal*, and sells for a higher price.

The coast of *Mekran* and *Kerman*, as far as *Cape Jask*, is taken from the chart of Lieutenant William Robinson, who surveyed it in 1774; and the remainder, as far as *Gomberoön*, from the late surveys of Captain Wainwright, of His Majesty's ship *Chiffone*, and Captain Jakes, of the Honorable Company's marine. The mountains, rivers, and towns in the interior of the province, are laid down from the manuscripts of Captains Grant and Christie, and Lieutenant Pottinger,

S C I N D.

THE country of *Scind* is situated between the twenty-third and twenty-seventh degrees of North Latitude and the sixty-seventh and seventy-first degrees of East Longitude. Its general boundaries are the country of *Cutch* and the *Indian Ocean* to the South; the provinces of *Marwar*, *Joudpore*, and *Jesselmere* to the East; those of *Bhukor*, *Moultan*, and the dominions of the King of *Cabul*, to the North; and on the West, *Mekran* and the mountains of *Balouchistan*. The river *Indus*, with its branches, intersect this country and increase its fertility, forming a Delta, in length about one hundred miles along the coast. It would appear, from enquiries made by Mr. Ellis, in 1809, when in *Scind* with Mr. Smith, that this noble river and the *Punjab* form a junction, a few miles to S. W. of a place called *Chaseepoor*, situated in Latitude $28^{\circ} 31' N.$, Longitude $69^{\circ} 55' E.$ The collective waters are then said to take a direction towards the West, and to throw out many branches, which fertilize the country to a great extent on both sides. About fifteen miles to the South of *Shikarpoor*,
the

principal stream separates into two channels, the most considerable of which continues its course as far as *Schwaun*, where it again turns to the East, and after detaching another small branch, about twelve miles to the North of *Hydrabad*, once more bends to the West, and enters the sea at a place called *Lahery Bunder*, situated in Latitude $24^{\circ} 22'$ N., Longitude $67^{\circ} 23'$ E.

The natives described this as an arm of the sea, and navigable for large vessels, as far as *Dharaja Bunder*, three days' journey from *Lahery Bunder*: goods are, consequently, here unloaded, and re-shipped in the *kantauls*, or boats, which proceed as far up as *Moultan* and *Lahore*. These boats carry about a hundred tons, are flat-bottomed, but of great breadth, and when the wind is contrary, are either drawn along the banks of the river or pushed forward with poles.

The most eastern branch, now called the *Nulla Suncra*, is said to be about a degree distant from the main stream, in the parallel of *Hydrabad*. It formerly entered the sea at *Lukput Bunder*, but is now, if we are to credit the reports of the natives, entirely lost in the sands. The *Fuloollee* branch, which has been mentioned as separating from the main stream twelve miles above *Hyderabad*, becomes again connected with it by an artificial cut, about twenty miles below that city. This channel is seven miles in length, and that portion of the waters which do not flow through it into the principal stream of the *Indus*,

enter the sea at *Lakput Bunder*, under the name of *Goonce*. The course of the *Goonce* at *Ali Bunder*, in Latitude $24^{\circ} 24' N.$, begins to be obstructed by shoals; and there is reason to fear that, in a few years, it will share the fate of the *Nulla Sumera*, and be absorbed in the sands.

Mr. Maxfield, of the Bombay Marine, who went as far as *Hydrabad*, describes the principal stream as being in general about a mile in breadth, but varying in depth from two to five fathoms. The swelling of the *Indus*, occasioned by the melting of the snow in the mountains of *Kashmere*, generally commences in the beginning of July, and continues to increase until the latter end of August.

Scind may be termed a level country, intersected with rocky hills; and even those parts which are at a distance from the river, are capable of being cultivated, should there be no failure in the periodical rains: but this is frequently the case, and no country in the world is more subject to continual droughts. The banks of the *Indus*, which, as I have already said, are annually overflowed, equal perhaps in fertility and richness the borders of the *Nile*, with which they have been compared; and notwithstanding the ignorance and oppression of the present rulers of *Scind*, who have enclosed, and converted the most fruitful districts into gloomy and impervious forests, for the amusement of hunting, it yet continues to export a considerable quantity of rice and grain. The country is, in general, in a state of culture, for thirty

or forty miles on each side of the river ; except at *Schwann*, where a great range of mountains, on the western side, approach to within fifteen miles of the principal stream.

The internal government of *Scind* is a military despotism ; and the supreme authority is vested in three brothers, of the house of Talpore, originally from *Balouchistan*, whose names are Meer Golum Ali, Meer Kureem Ali, and Meer Murad Ali. The eldest has the title of *Hakem*, or ruler, and is considered by foreign nations as the head of the government. The whole country is divided between the three brothers (the eldest having the largest share) ; but two other members of the reigning family, Meer Sohrab and Meer Thara, although not ostensible partakers of the supreme authority, exercise every function of government within their respective territories. The population of this country is principally composed of Mahomedan tribes from *Balouchistan*. There are, however, a considerable number of Hindoos, who are here placed on an equality with the followers of the Arabian prophet, and enjoy the confidence of their prince, and the free exercise of their religion. The latter are chiefly employed in commerce ; whilst the Mahomedans constitute the military order, and in peace become husbandmen and artificers.

Agreeably to the treaty concluded in 1739 between Nadir Shah and the Emperor of *Delhi*, *Scind* is nominally subject to the King of *Cabul*, and ought to pay a yearly tribute of twelve *laes* of *rupees*, which is never done, except when enforced by the advance of an army

at this place, is about a mile in breadth, and four fathoms in depth at the deepest part.

Fifty-seven miles from *Tatta* is *Corachie*, the only good sea-port in *Sindh*. It lies seventeen miles E. by S. of *Cape Monze*, in Latitude $24^{\circ} 51' \frac{1}{4}$ N., and Longitude $67^{\circ} 16'$ E., at the head of a bay which affords good shelter for shipping, and vessels of three or four hundred tons burthen may enter the harbour, from the beginning of September to the latter end of May. This is, however, to be understood only at high water, there not being, at any other time, more than a fathom and a half and a fathom and a quarter on the bar. The harbour is narrow, and defended on the western point of its entrance by a castle, built in 1801, shortly after the expulsion of Mr. Crow, on which are mounted a few pieces of unserviceable cannon. The soil about *Corachie* is sandy and stoney, but capable of being cultivated during the rains. A few date-trees are seen in the immediate neighbourhood of the town, but the fruit never comes to perfection. Lemons, mangoes, grapes, plantains, as well as water and musk-melons, are produced; but, with the exception of the pumpkin and brinjal, there are no vegetables at *Corachie*. The water is brackish; fuel and forage are scarce, sheep are indifferent, but the camels and draught bullocks are excellent. The population of *Corachie* is estimated at eight thousand souls, the majority being Hindoos, who are chiefly engaged in commercial concerns. The exports of the country consist chiefly of rice, glue, hides, shark-fins, saltpetre, potash, asafœtida, tatta-cloth, indigo, frankincense, and coarse cloths.

cloths. These articles are conveyed, in the fair season, in *dingees*,* to *Bombay*, *Guzzerat*, and the coast of *Malabar*; from whence they bring back pepper and other spices, iron, lead, steel, elephants' teeth, cochineal, with sandal-wood and other woods. Boats proceed up a small creek, in five or six days, from *Corachie*.

The town of *Gugah* contains six hundred inhabitants, and is built at the foot of a hill, at the bottom of which runs a small creek, in Latitude $24^{\circ} 45' N.$, Longitude $68^{\circ} 7' E.$; and the extensive ruins of *Bamborah*, situated in Latitude $24^{\circ} 46' N.$, Longitude $67^{\circ} 50' E.$, are supposed to be those of the ancient city of *Braminabad*. There are many other small towns in *Scind*, besides the above; but I have not succeeded in receiving any information that could be depended on respecting them. The Latitudes and Longitudes of *Hydrabad*, *Tatta*, *Corachie*, &c. were ascertained by a series of observations taken by Captain Maxfield, of the Honorable Company's Bombay Marine, who accompanied Mr. Smith in his late successful mission to the court of *Scind*.

Small coasting vessels with one mast and a very high stern.

C A B U L.

I HAD once intended to have given a short description of the provinces subject to the Afghan government ; but as that kingdom has lately been visited by an English embassy, I shall now confine myself to a statement of the authorities upon which I have fixed the principal positions in the Map. The gentlemen of Mr. Elphinstone's suite have, no doubt, had many opportunities of acquiring a knowledge of the countries through which they passed ; and the acknowledged abilities of the ambassador, himself, lead us to hope, that he will favor the public with an account of his mission. A geographical memoir, written by Lieutenant M'Cartney, one of the officers attached to the embassy, and sent home by the Supreme Government of India, contains much interesting and valuable matter. His account, however, of the countries to the West of the *Indus*, seems to be founded on routes and information furnished him by the natives. It agrees, in many particulars, with what was collected by General Malcolm and officers attached to his mission, and may, I have no doubt, in general, be relied upon as correct ; but, perhaps, the positions of *Cubul*, *Bulkh*, and *Samarkand*, may be fixed, with equal, if not more accuracy, from authorities already published.

Samarkand,

Samarkand, according to Ulegbeg and Naser a Deen, is situated in Latitude $39^{\circ} 37' 23''$ N., and the Longitude deduced from *Aleppo* and *Cazween* will be $64^{\circ} 3'$ E. Major Rennel, in his Memoir to his Map of *Hindostan*, makes it $64^{\circ} 15'$, being twelve minutes more to the East; I have, therefore, adopted the mean, and placed this city in Latitude $39^{\circ} 37' 23''$ N. and Longitude $64^{\circ} 9'$ E. The above position being fixed, we will now proceed to settle *Bulkh*. The Latitude of this place, as given in the oriental tables, is $36^{\circ} 41'$ N.; and I am inclined to believe this statement to be correct, as the routes in my possession, in general, allow about a hundred and eighty-eight geographical miles between *Samarkand* and *Bulkh*. The Longitude given in the Oriental tables is 101° E. *Cazween*, agreeably to the same authority, is placed in 85° E. being a difference of $16^{\circ} 20'$. The Latitude of *Cazween*, according to Beauchamp, is $49^{\circ} 33'$; and therefore that of *Bulkh*, if deduced from *Cazween*, will be $65^{\circ} 33'$, which I have adopted.

Cabul is, according to Major Rennel, situated in Longitude $68^{\circ} 33'$ E., being 3° to the East of *Bulkh*; and, consequently, the direct distance of a hundred and ninety geographical miles from the latter to *Cabul* will allow $34^{\circ} 30'$ N. for the Latitude of that place. The Latitude of *Kandahar*, 33° , is fixed from the oriental tables, and compared with several cross routes; whilst the Longitude has been determined by the road distance from *Herat* and *Cabul*. These principal positions having been adjusted, the others have been laid down from them.

PASHALICK OF BAGDAD.

THE *Pashalick* of *Bagdad* extends in a N. W. direction, from the mouth of the *Shut-ul-Arab* to the rocks of *Merdin*, and in an East and West line from the confines of *Persia* to the banks of the *Khabour*, which separates it from the *Pashalick* of *Orfa*. The general boundaries are the *Euphrates* and desert of *Nedjid* to the West and South, *Kuzistan* and *Mount Zagros* to the East, the *Pashalick* of *Diarbekr* to the N. W., and *Armenia*, with the territories of the Kurdish chief of *Julamerick*, to the North. This great tract comprehends the whole of the ancient *Babylonia*, and the greatest part of *Assyria Proper*. I shall attempt to delineate separately these two grand divisions of the *Pashalick*: that is to say, the space which is embraced by the *Tigris* and the *Euphrates*, and that which is beyond the *Tigris*, commonly called the *Lower Kurdistan*.

Babylonia,* or *Chaldæa*, which after the Macedonian conquest
received

Babylonia, properly speaking, extended no further towards the North than the wall of *Maceprata*, and the name of *Chaldæa* was peculiar to that part which bordered on the *Persian Gulf*.

received the general appellation of *Mesopotamia*, denoting its position between two rivers, called *Al Jezira* by the Arabians, and *Irak Arabi* by the Persians, is perhaps one of the most interesting countries in the world ; and those who have had an opportunity of contemplating its present desolate condition, and of comparing it with the glowing descriptions which the writers of antiquity have left us of the wealth and fertility of that celebrated region,* will perhaps be led to reflect on the instability of human grandeur, and feel impressed with the painful truth, that the most polite and flourishing kingdom in the universe may, in the course of a few years, be reduced, by the weakness or depravity of its government, to extreme wretchedness. The mighty cities of *Niniveh*, *Babylon*, *Seleucia*, and *Ctesiphon*, have crumbled into dust : the humble tent of the Arab now occupies the spot formerly adorned with the palaces of kings, and his flocks procure but a scanty pittance of food, amidst the fallen fragments of ancient magnificence. The banks of the *Euphrates* and *Tigris*, once so prolific, are now, for the most part, covered with impenetrable brushwood ; and the interior of the province, which was traversed, and fertilized with innumerable canals, is destitute of either inhabitants or vegetation.

Few countries in the *East* are blest with a richer soil, or capable of being cultivated with so little exertion. The *Tigris* and the *Euphrates*,

Babylonic was reckoned equal to one-third of *Asia*, in point of revenue, previous to the time of *Cyrus*; and latterly, the daily tribute paid to the Persian *Satrap* was an English bushel of silver. (*Gibbon*.)

phrates, which are never further distant than fifty, approach in the Latitude of *Bagdad* to within twenty-five miles of each other, and afford an inexhaustible supply of the finest water. They rise twice in the year, as has already been mentioned in my description of those noble streams; and as the water is then nearly on a level with the surface of the plain, the irrigation may be accomplished in the easiest manner. But the population of *Irak Arabi* being chiefly composed of tribes of wandering Arabs, averse, from principle and habit, to agricultural pursuits, these great natural advantages are turned to no account. Here, as well as in *Persia*, it is usual for the natives to raise corn only in the immediate vicinity of the towns and villages.* But a few exceptions may be made to this general rule, and the following are the most productive portions of this division of the *Pashalick*. The banks of the *Shat-ul-Arab*, in the neighbourhood of *Bassora*, and for upwards of thirty miles below that city, are well cultivated, and yield vast quantities of dates, wheat, barley, and various kinds of fruits. The borders of the *Euphrates*, between *Korna* and *Shukashu*, produce abundance of dry grain; and the territory possessed by the *Alghazyl* Arabs, which is a low marshy tract, formed by the expansion of the waters of the *Euphrates* between *Lemloon* and *Samavat*, is
famed

Where private property is insecure, and where the cultivator can never reckon on reaping the fruits of his labours, industry can never flourish. The landholder, under the iron despotism of the Turkish government, is at all times liable to have his fields laid waste, and his habitation pillaged by the myrmidons of those in power.

famed for its plentiful crops of rice. The districts adjoining *Merdin* and *Nisibin*, watered by the river *Mygdonius*, and a number of little brooks, are, in my opinion, by far the most beautiful in the *Jezira*, and in a tolerable state of cultivation.

We are informed by Mr. Gibbon, that nature has denied to the soil and climate of *Assyria* some of her choicest gifts, the vine, the olive, and the fig-tree. This might have been the case in the age of *Ammianus Marcellinus*, but is not so at the present day. and it is a curious fact, that the grape, the olive, and the fig, are the most common fruits in the province, and may be seen in every garden. The pomegranates of *Bagdad* are esteemed the most delicious in the *East*. Apples, pears, and apricots of an inferior quality, are also abundant; but of all the productions of *Irak Arabi* the date is the most beneficial. The cultivation of this tree is conducted with great attention; and, as the process is somewhat remarkable, I shall give a short account of it. Both the male and the female begin to blossom towards the end of February. The flower grows from the stem, between the uppermost branches (or leaves), and is, in appearance, something like a bunch of wheat, but much more white. The flower of the male tree is sweet and palatable, but that of the female bitter and nauseous to the taste. About the middle of March, when the trees are completely in flower, they are pruned of all their exuberant branches; and it is sometimes deemed advisable to remove a certain quantity of the blossom and stalk of the male flower, which is then inserted into a small incision made

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in the top of the female tree. After the application of the male flower, the dates of the female gradually increase in size, until the *khormee puz*, or date ripening, which is in August and September. A male is sufficient to fecundate many hundred females; and it is even said that the same portion will, in case of necessity, answer for several. The male flower never produces fruit, and is eaten by the Arabs as bread, either green or roasted. When ripe, the dates are pulled, and appropriated agreeably to the views of the owner. Some are dried in the sun, and strung on lines made of goats' hair. Those that are intended to be kept in a moist state, are immediately packed up in baskets made of the palm-leaf, and the saccharine matter which they contain is found sufficient to preserve them from spoiling. The inhabitants of these countries look upon the date-tree as the greatest blessing they enjoy: it yields food for men, horses, and dogs, and may be applied, it is said, to three hundred and sixty different uses. There are many kinds of dates; but that which is most esteemed grows in the vicinity of *Mekka*.

The horses of this country have been renowned from time immemorial. From them the breed of *Europe* has principally been improved, and the fleetest racers of *Newmarket* may be numbered in the posterity of the Godolphin Arabian. They are of a small size, seldom exceeding fourteen hands three inches high, are never known to be vicious, extremely docile, and of rather a sluggish nature, until heated and put upon their mettle. It is then, and only then, that the value of this noble animal

animal can be estimated : and when we view the beauty and symmetry of his form, his delicate limbs, the fineness of his skin, through which his swelling veins seem to force themselves, his tail erect, the fire sparkling in his eyes, his nostrils distended, and his long mane flowing over his neck and forehead, there are few who would not acknowledge the blood-horse of *Arabia* to be the most perfect of the brute creation. They are neither so swift nor so strong as their descendants in *England*, but capable of undergoing astonishing fatigue ; and I myself was once under the necessity of riding a colt, four years of age, about ninety miles, without dismounting from his back. At the end of the journey I found him almost as fresh as at the commencement, and for a fortnight afterwards he travelled at the rate of forty miles a day, without losing his flesh. The finest horses are those which are bred in the interior of *Nedjid*, and on the frontiers of *Syria*, towards *Damascus*. There is also a very good breed on the banks of the *Euphrates*, in the district inhabited by the tribe of Montefidge, great numbers of which have, within these few years, been exported to *India* by Mr. Manesty, the British resident of *Bassora*, a gentleman whose conciliating manners gained him unprecedented influence amongst the tribes of the Desert. A horse of the purest blood is, however, very difficult to be procured, even at *Bagdad* or *Bassora*, and will fetch from twelve hundred to three thousand piastras.* The most common, and at the same time the most useful animal in the

province, is the camel. They are universally of the dromedary class, having but a single hump. I have seen them of different colours, brown, white, and a lead colour; but the former is by much the most prevalent. The usual travelling pace of those which carry burthens is remarkably slow, seldom exceeding a mile and three-quarters, or two miles an hour. Those, however, which are used as riding camels will move much quicker, and they have been known to go from *Bagdad* to *Aleppo*, a distance of nearly seven hundred miles, in the course of eight or nine days. They feed when they travel on a salt prickly weed in the Desert, called *shuter khar* (the camels' thorn), which, with a small quantity of flour and water kneaded together into a ball, and given them morning and evening, constitutes the whole of the nourishment which they receive during the journey. Their speed is at no time equal to the gallop of a horse;* and their trot is so excessively rough,

* Of this I had a convincing, though rather a disagreeable proof, when attacked, in the Desert, by a party of the Bedouin Arabs. The public business on which I was employed not permitting me to attend the dilatory motions of a caravan, and the direct road through *Mesopotamia* and *Anatolia* to *Constantinople* being interdicted by the orders of the *Porte*, in consequence of the rebellion of *Solyman Pasha*, I was resolved to attempt the passage of the Desert, from *Bagdad* to *Aleppo*. I accordingly set out from Mr. Rich's camp, on the banks of the *Tigris*, about the end of September 1810, accompanied by four native guides and a Portuguese servant. We had not, however, proceeded above a hundred and fifty miles, when, on the evening of the third day, we encountered a straggling party of the Wahabee, mounted on dromedaries, and armed in the Arabian fashion,

with

rough, that it is next to impossible for a person, not in habits of riding them, to keep his seat. Mules and asses are also used as beasts of burthen: the latter are small, and the former are principally brought from *Persia*. Buffaloes are kept for the sake of the milk, and oxen are used for the purposes of agriculture. Of the wild animals, the jackal is the most destructive in the country. The lion, the hyæna, the wolf, and the wild boar, are also common; and the antelope, which appears to exist without either food or water, is everywhere

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seen

with scymitars and long lances. My brave and faithful guides had no sooner descried them, than they betook themselves to flight; and although my camel, as well as that of my servant, followed their companions, so far from being able to urge them to their speed (which it was necessary to do in order to escape) we were entirely occupied in maintaining our seats. The poor Portuguese losing his equilibrium, was precipitated under the belly of the animal, and getting entangled amongst his legs was, in this manner, tossed like a foot-ball for several yards, and in consequence nearly pummelled to death. The banditti, in the meantime, coming up, I had just time to fire one of my pistols, when struck to the ground by their spears. They stript and plundered us of every thing, even to our shirts, and then left us bruised and wounded in the Desert, where we should inevitably have perished for want of water, had not one of my guides, who happened, by the greatest good fortune, to be mounted on a horse, kept us in sight. Indeed he never went to any great distance from us; and notwithstanding the lameness of his horse, the fleetest of the dromedaries could never approach him. He hovered round us until the Arabs took their departure, when I mounted behind him, and we made the best of our way back to *Bagdad*, where the hospitality and kindness of Mr. Rich, the British Resident, enabled me, a fortnight afterwards, to prosecute my journey by the direct route.

seen in great numbers. Hares are plentiful, but foxes are seldom seen. All sorts of poultry are bred, excepting the turkey. The black partridge is found in great abundance on the borders of the rivers and on the cultivated lands. Snipes, and almost every species of wild fowl, may be shot in the marshes; and pelicans are frequently seen on the *Euphrates* and *Tigris*.

During the months of June, July, and August, in the southern parts of this province, it is so intolerably hot, that the inhabitants of *Bagdad* and of the other towns are compelled to pass the greater part of the day in subterraneous apartments, called *surdabs*: the nights are, however, always cool, and fires are absolutely necessary in the winter. The prevailing wind blow from the N. W.; sometimes very hard, and always scorchingly hot during the summer. The *bade semoom*, or pestilential wind, is more common in the neighbourhood of *Bagdad* than in any other quarter of the province; but it is, in general, only fatal to strangers, as the Arabs know, with wonderful exactness, the period of its approach, by a fiery appearance in the horizon.

With the exception of the *Tigris* and the *Euphrates*, the only rivers in this division of the *Pashalick* are the *Khabour* and *Mygdonius*. The former, which was called the *Chaboras*, is formed from the junction of a number of little brooks, which have their source at *Ras-ul-lin**, thirteen *fursungs* S. W. of *Merdin*. The *Kabour* pursues

* This was once a considerable town, but is now in ruins.

pursues a southerly course, until it receives the *Mygdonius*, when it enters the *Euphrates* at *Kerkesia*, the ancient *Circessium*, which, in the time of Julian, was the extreme boundary of the Roman empire. The *Hermes*, or *Nahr ul Houali*, to which the Macedonians gave the name of *Mygdonius*, rises in *Mount Musius*; and after washing the ruined ramparts of *Nisibis*, encircles the base of the mountain of *Sinjar*, and at the termination of a short, but rapid course, disembogues, as has just been observed, into the *Khabour*. The plain of *Mesopotamia* was formerly intersected by many noble canals; amongst which the *Nahr Malcha*, or royal river, which joined the *Tigris* near *Seleucia*, the *Pallacopas*, sometimes mistaken for a branch of the *Euphrates*, and the canal of *Isa*, are particularly mentioned. The former, originally dug by the kings of *Assyria*, was repaired by Trajan, in his expedition against the Parthians; but having again, in a great measure, become dry, in the age of Julian, was a second time cleaned out, by the orders of that prince, who conducted his fleet through the *Nahr Malcha*, from the *Euphrates* to the *Tigris*. The course of this noble canal may yet be traced, half-way between *Bagdad* and *Hilleh*. I shall, at present, say nothing of the *Pallacopas*, as it is my intention to speak of it, at some length, in my description of *Meshed Ali*. Not a vestige now remains of the canal of *Isa*, which is said to have commenced at *Is*, the modern *Hit*, and terminated at *Opis*. The only canal at present connecting the rivers

is styled the *Hie*: it cuts the *Jezira* exactly half-way between *Bassora* and *Bagdad*, and is navigable in the spring for large boats.

In the description of the cities and towns, I shall commence with the capital; and after alluding to the ruins in its vicinity, ascend the *Tigris* as far as *Merdin*, and follow the course of the *Euphrates*, from *Kerkesia* to its entrance into the *Persian Gulf*.

Many doubts have been started, relative to the origin of the name of the city of *Bagdad*, for ages the metropolis of the Saracen power. The favourite tradition in the *East* is, that the spot selected for the building of the city formerly belonged to a celebrated Christian hermit, named *Dad*, and was from thence named *Bag-Dad*, or the garden of *Dad*. It was also called *Dar ul Salam*, or the mansion of peace; an appellation common to several other towns in *Arabia*. *Bagdad* was founded by *Al Mansour*, second *Caliph* of the race of *Abbas*, in the hundred and forty-fifth year of the *Hejra*, on the western bank of the *Tigris*, and is reported to have been built out of the ruins of *Ctesiphon*. It was adorned with many noble and stately edifices, by the grandeur of its founder, the renowned *Haroun-ul-Rushid*; who also built on the eastern side of the river, connecting the two quarters of the town by a bridge of boats. Indeed, the city may be said to have attained its meridian splendour under the auspices of *Zobeida* and *Jaffer Barmeked*,* the wife and favourite of that vengeful hero, who himself
preferred

* For the affecting story of *Abbasa* and *Jaffer Barmeked*, consult *D'Herbelot*, and the first volume of *Florian's* romantic history of *Gonzalvo di Cordova*.

preferred his palace of *Racca*,* on the *Euphrates*, to that of *Bagdad*, which stood on the western bank of the *Tigris*, and from its magnificence was esteemed one of the wonders of the world. This great capital continued to flourish and increase,† and to be the seat of elegance and of learning, until the six hundred and fifty-sixth year of the *Hejra*, when its weakness and its opulence excited the cupidity of the Tartar, Holakoo, the grandson of Jungeez Khan, who took the city by storm, and extinguished for ever the reign of the Abbasides, by the death of Al Mostasen, the last *Caliph* of his race. The Tartars retained possession of *Bagdad* till the seven hundred and ninety-fifth year of the *Hejra*, when it was seized by Tamerlane, on the flight of the Sultaun Ahmed Ben Avis. The deposed prince having found protection in the dominions of the Greek emperor, subsequently contrived to repossess himself of the city; but was finally expelled, by Kara Yusef, in 815. The descendants of the latter continued masters of *Bagdad* till the eight hundred and seventy-fifth year of the *Hejra*, when they, in their turn, were doomed to experience the fortune of war and were driven out by Usun Cassim. This family reigned thirty-nine years in *Bagdad*, when Shah Ismael the First, the founder of the royal house of Sefi, made himself master of it. From that time to the present day it has continued to be an object of perpetual contention
between

* The Roman *Nicphorium*.

† Previous to this period, however, the Bourides and Seljuckians had deprived the *Caliphs* of their finest province.

between the Turks and Persians. It was taken by Soliman the Magnificent, and retaken by Shah Abbas the Great. It stood a memorable siege against Sultaun Muraud,* at the head of an army of three hundred thousand men ; but being reduced to the utmost extremity, was at last obliged to surrender to that sanguinary tyrant, A. D. 1638.

The city, since that period, has remained in the possession of the Ottomans ; and Ashmed, the greatest of the *Pashas* of *Bagdad*, and the first who rendered the *Pashalick*, in a great degree, independant of the *Porte*, defended it, with uncommon courage and ability, against the forces of Nadir Shah, who baffled in all his attempts, was finally compelled to raise the siege, and retire, with loss and diminished reputation, into his own dominions.

The modern city embraces both banks of the *Tigris*, but the principal part of it is on the eastern side. It, in shape, resembles an oblong square, surrounded by a high wall, built of brick and mud, flanked at regular distances with round towers, some of which, of an immense size, were erected by the earlier *Caliphs*, and far exceed in strength and beauty those built by their successors. The circumference of the walls, including both sides of the river, is about five miles.

There

* Amurath the Fourth, one of the bravest and most active, but at the same time the most bloody and ferocious despot that ever sat on the throne of *Constantinople*. The city capitulated, on condition that the lives and property of the inhabitants should be saved ; but Amurath, regardless of treaties, on the night of surrender caused the greater part of the population to be massacred by torch-light.

There are six gates, three on each side of the water, seventeen large towers, and an hundred small ones on the East side, and thirteen on the West. The large towers have each five guns mounted upon them : many of the small ones have each a gun ; but the greatest part of the artillery is old and unfit for service. The castle at the northern corner of the city commands the passage of the *Tigris* ; but is a place of no strength, and of pitiful appearance. *Bagdad* is, upon the whole, a meanly-built city. Some of the houses, however, are not deficient in external appearance ; but are neither so handsomely fitted up, nor so convenient in the interior arrangements, as those in the larger towns in *Persia*. The streets* are so narrow, that two horsemen meeting can hardly pass ; and the *bazars*, although extensive and well supplied, are far from handsome. Few of the ancient buildings remain. Those, however, which have bid defiance to the ravages of time and the destructive hand of the Turks, are much superior, both in elegance and solidity, to the modern structures. The most worthy of remark are the Gate of the Talisman, through which Sultaun Muraud entered when he took the city ; the tomb of Zobeida, the most beloved of the wives of Haroun-ul-Rushid ; a lofty minaret ; a convent of *Dervises* ; and the *Madressa Mostenseroi*, so famous in the Arabian history, and now converted into the custom-house. Nothing remains of the palace of the *Caliphs* : they are even ignorant of the spot on

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which

* Narrow streets are absolutely necessary in very hot climates, that the passengers may be shaded by the walls from the rays of the sun.

which it stood; and the present residence of the *Pashas* is a large, though wretched house, on the eastern bank of the river. The only handsome modern edifice in *Bagdad* is the tomb and sanctuary of Sheikh Abdul Cawder, a famous *Sooni* doctor,* who flourished in the year of the *Hijra* 590. This building occupies a large space, at a considerable distance from the river: its chief ornament is a lofty cupola, under which are deposited the bones of the *Sheikh*. It is abundantly supplied with water, by an aqueduct from the *Tigris*; the court is divided into a vast number of little cells; and the establishment

The natives of *Bagdad* regard him as the guardian angel of the city, and address him on all occasions of danger and distress, believing his influence in heaven to be so efficacious, that through his mediation their sins will be forgiven and their sufferings alleviated. Tired of riding, I embarked in a small vessel at *Nicomedia*, to pass over to *Constantinople*, on board of which was also part of a *caravan* that had just arrived from *Bagdad*. We got under weigh in the evening, and towards midnight gained the mouth of the Gulf, when the wind gradually increasing, it began to blow very strong from the *Propontis*. This, in addition to the heavy swell and excessive darkness of the night, filled the minds of the *Bagdad* merchants with horror. The Greek pilot in vain endeavoured to convince them there was no danger, provided they remained quiet, and allowed his people to navigate the boat. They would not listen to reason, and said that the interference of Abdul Cawder alone could abate the fury of the storm, and rescue them from inevitable death. In imploring the pity of the *Sheikh*, they occupied almost the whole of the deck, from which they refused to move; and the sailors finding it impossible to work the vessel, ran us on shore amongst the rocks under the town of *Gabiza*.

ment is so richly endowed, as to be able to support about three hundred fanatics.

Bagdad is still a place of great trade, and the resort of merchants from almost every quarter of the *East*. It supplies all *Asia Minor*, *Syria*, and part of *Europe*, with Indian commodities, which are imported at *Bassora*, brought in boats up the *Tigris*, and then transported by caravans to *Tocat*, *Constantinople*, *Aleppo*, *Damascus*, and the western parts of *Persia*. The chief imports from India are gold brocade, cloths, sugar, pepper, tin, sandal-wood, iron, china-ware, spices, cutlery, arms, and broad-cloth; in return for which they send bullion, copper, gall-nuts, tamarik, leather, and otto of roses. From *Aleppo* are imported European silk stuffs, broad-cloth, steel, cochineal, gold-thread, and several other European articles, which are brought in Greek vessels to *Scanderoon*. The imports from *Persia* are shawls, carpets, silk, cotton, white cloth, leather, and saffron; and those from *Constantinople* are bullion, furs, gold and silver-thread, jewels, brocade, velvets, and otto of roses. The principal manufacture at this place is that of red and yellow leather, which is much esteemed; but silk and cotton stuffs are likewise made.

The climate is, notwithstanding its excessive heat, acknowledged to be very healthy; but the natives are, without exception, the ugliest people in the Turkish empire, and are all subject to a cutaneous disorder, for which no cure has yet been discovered. This disease, which is also common to *Aleppo* and other towns in *Syria*, makes its

first appearance in the form of a pimple, and then degenerating into an ulcer, dries up of itself, at the end of eight or ten months, leaving a mark, which the person retains during the remainder of his life. The environs of the town, though capable of yielding not only the necessaries, but even the luxuries of life, are altogether barren, and the gardens, or rather date-groves, that shade the immediate banks of the *Tigris*, are laid out without any taste. The ruins of the old city may yet be traced a considerable distance up the west side of the river, and quantities of brick and tile are daily dug up. The mean of the different observations in my possession will give the position of *Bagdad* in Latitude $33^{\circ} 20'$ N., and Longitude $44^{\circ} 24'$ E.

Three miles North of *Bagdad*, and on the western bank of the *Tigris*, is the town of *Kazameen*, inhabited by about eight thousand Persians, who have been induced to settle here, on account of its being the burying-place of Imam Mousa Cassim (the father of Imam Resa) and Imam Mahomed Touky. To the memory of these holy men a noble mosque has been erected. It is ornamented with two gilded cupolas, and like those of *Meshed Ali* and *Kerbela*, supported by the contributions of the pilgrims. *Kazameen* has a decent *bazar*, fifteen coffee-houses, three *humums*, and a *caravansera*; and opposite the town is the tomb of Imam Abu Hanafi, another Mahomedan saint Nine miles S. W. of *Kazameen*, and at some distance from the river, is a very extraordinary structure, of a pyramidical form, called the *Tower of Babel* by Europeans; *Nimrood*, by the natives of *Bagdad*;
and

and *Agerkuf*, by the Arabians. It is one hundred and ninety feet in height, one hundred in diameter, and from its appearance I should judge it to be coeval with the remains of ancient *Babylon*. The shape is similar, although much more perfect. It is built of the same materials, namely, square bricks dried in the sun, cemented with slime and layers of reeds: and an opening, about one hundred feet from the bottom, seems to indicate its being hollow; but as the side of the pyramid is quite perpendicular, I have heard of no person that has ever had either the courage or curiosity to enter it. Near this tower are the remains of a very fine canal, and the ruins of a city, which is probably that of *Sittace*, mentioned by Xenophon.

On the eastern shore of the *Tigris*, eighteen miles South of *Bagdad*, are the ruins of the once celebrated city of *Ctesiphon*; and immediately opposite to it, the ramparts and fosse of the Grecian city of *Seleucia*, which afterwards becoming identified with the former, under the name of *Coche*, they assumed, when thus united, the epithet of *Al Modain*, or the cities.* The foundation of the city of *Ctesiphon*, most admirably situated on a sort of peninsula, formed by a sudden flexure of the *Tigris*, which must have embraced the greatest part of the town, can hardly be ascribed to any particular person, as it would seem to have increased gradually during a succession of many years, from a camp to a city. Pacoras, supposed to be Orodes, King
of

of the Parthians, and cotemporary with Anthony, is thought to be the first who surrounded it with walls, and made it the capital of the Parthian empire. It was sacked, together with *Seleucia*, by the generals of Marcus Aurelius, A. D. 165, and afterwards by the Emperor Severus.* It became the favourite winter residence of the powerful successors of Artaxerxes, from whom it was taken by Said, the general of Omar, A. D. 637.†

The sack of *Ctesiphon* was followed by its gradual decay, and little now remains but part of the palace of Chosroes (called *Tunk Kera*,‡ the arch of Chosroes) a melancholy emblem of the glory of its master. It is seen from afar on the plain, and presents a front of three hundred feet in length by one hundred and sixty in depth, having in its centre a vaulted hall, a hundred and six feet in height to the top of the arch, the span of which is eighty-five. The city walls, which appear to have been of very great thickness, may also be traced to a considerable distance on both banks of the river.

In

Gibbon.

† The splendour of the courts of Sapor and Chosroes is the perpetual theme of oriental history and romance; and if credit is to be given to the magnificent accounts of the palace of the latter, it must have surpassed, in richness and beauty, every building of the kind, of which any mention is made in history.

‡ *Kera*, or *Kem*, is a stile which seems to have been indiscriminately applied to the later princes of the house of Sassan, and was probably derived from the Cæsars of the Romans.

In proceeding up the *Tigris*, towards *Mostl*, we have first the small village of *Swedia*, eight hours* from *Bagdad*. Five hours from *Swedia* is *Degel*, the ancient *Apamea*, composed of two villages, one called *Beled*, and the other *Samcha*, where the borders of the river are cultivated to some extent. The town of *Samara*, close to which are two old forts, called *Ashouk* and *Mashouk*† (the lover and the beloved), is within eight hours of *Degel*. Here is interred Mahomed ul Mahadi, the twelfth *Imam*. It is the *Samara* of antiquity, and in the ninth century became considerable as the residence of several *Caliphs* of the house of Abbas. About four hundred houses are all that are left. Ten hours from *Samara* is *Tecrit*, and between them is the village of *Kark*, called likewise *Eski Bagdad* (old *Bagdad*), formerly a city named *Carcha*, where the Romans encamped after the death of Julian. *Tecrit* is thought to be the *Birtha* or *Vitra* of the ancients, described as a very strong fortress, and said to have been constructed by Alexander the Great. It was chosen in the seventh century for the abode of a Jacobite Primate‡; and having increased to a considerable town, was taken by Timur, in 1393. The ruins

* I reckon the hour at three English miles and three quarters, or nearly the same as a *fursung*.

† A story was told me by an Arab *Sheikh* of a lover and his mistress, who had inhabited these castles, exactly similar to that of Hero and Leander.

‡ D'Anville.

ruins are extensive, and the number of houses amount to about five or six hundred, with a *caravansera* and two coffee-houses. Opposite to *Tecrit* is the tomb of Imam Mahomed Dour, built on the side of the fortress of *Dura*, founded by Antiochus, and better known from a treaty here concluded by Jovian, in which he surrendered to the Persians the city of *Nisibis* and the five provinces beyond the *Tigris*. *Hatder* is a ruined and forsaken town, a few leagues to the North of *Tecrit*. It is mentioned in history as having resisted the attack of Trajan and Severus, as well as those of Artaxerxes, the subverter of the Parthian throne. There have been many conjectures respecting the site of *Opis*, the largest city on the *Tigris* in the days of Xenophon and Alexander; and the learned Dean of Westminster has written a dissertation on the subject, which confirms the opinion of D'Anville, who has placed it at the mouth of the *Odorneh*, twenty *farsangs* above *Bagdad*. Here was also the termination of the Median wall, which commencing at *Macepracta*, was built by the ancient Kings of *Assyria*, to secure their dominions from the incursions of the Medes. From *Tecrit* to *Mosul*, by land, the country is entirely desert; and on the banks of the river are a few trifling villages, with scattered spots of cultivation.

The city of *Mosul*, although lying almost in the very heart of the dominions of the *Pasha* of *Bagdad*, forms of itself, with a small territory not extending more than two miles on each side of the town, an independant government, under the orders of a *Pasha* of two
tails,

tails, appointed by the Grand Seignior. It stands on the western bank of the *Tigris*, in Latitude $36^{\circ} 21' N.$, and in so low a situation, that the river, which is here one hundred yards wide, and flows with astonishing rapidity, often rises to the level of the houses.* Like every other town in the Turkish empire, it is in a declining state. The stone wall which surrounds it is broken down in many places, and the greater part of the best buildings are crumbling into ruin. The houses are partly built of brick and partly of stone; and as timber is scarce and dear, the roofs, and even the ceilings of the apartments, are vaulted. The city has seven gates; and the castle, which is in a very decayed condition, occupies a small artificial island in the *Tigris*. The coffee-houses, baths, *khans*, and *bazars*, are handsome buildings, and the latter are well supplied with provisions brought from *Kurdistan*. The *Kara Seroi*, or black palace, being now in ruins, the *Pasha* resides in a

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cluster

* A certain degree of mystery seems to involve the early history of this town, and I have not been able to discover either the period of its foundation or the name of its founder. Mr. Gibbon conjectures it to have been the western suburb of *Ninus*: but whether it was so or not, its antiquity is beyond a doubt: for we find it mentioned, in the ages of the first *Caliphs*, by the name of *Mo ul*, and subsequently as a place of some importance, and the emporium of a great trade between *Persia* and *Syria*. It stood a siege against the famous Salahadeen, in the 578th year of the *Hijra*, was taken by the Moguls, three years after the fall of *Bagdad*, and nearly ruined by Timur, in the 700th year of the *Hijra*. It would also have fallen into the hands of Nadir Shah, in A.D. 1713, after a bombardment of forty days, had he not been under the necessity of returning into *Persia*, to suppress a rebellion which had broken out during his absence.

cluster of insignificant little buildings, situated in the dirtiest quarter of the town. The principal ornaments of *Mosul* are a college, the tomb of Sheikh Abdul Cassim, and the remains of a beautiful mosque; the minaret of which, built by Noureedeem, Sultaun of *Damascus*, has a fine effect, when viewed from a distance, on approaching the city. The population, as I was told by the *Pasha*, amounts to nearly thirty-five thousand souls, Turks, Kurds, Jews, Armenians, Nestorians, and Arabs. The climate is proverbially healthy, and there are several mineral springs within a short distance of the town. On the west of the *Tigris*, the environs of *Mosul* are wholly uncultivated; which circumstance, combined with the great extent of the burying-ground under the walls, gives it a gloomy and melancholy aspect. This place still carries on a trifling commerce with *Bagdad* and *Asia Minor*. To the former it sends gall-nuts and copper* from *Armenia*, floated down the *Tigris* on *kellicks*, or rafts; and, in return, receives Indian commodities, which are forwarded to *Diarbekr*, *Orfa*, *Tocat*, &c.

On the opposite bank of the *Tigris*, and about three quarters of a mile from that stream, the village of *Nunia*, and sepulchre of the prophet Jonas, seem to point out the position of *Nineveh*, the largest city, perhaps, that ever existed in the world. Its origin is ascribed by
profane

* The gall-nut tree is common to *Kurdistan* and *Armenia*, and the copper is dug from the mines of *Kewan* and *Argum*, situated in the two branches of *Mount Taurus* that enclose the valley of *Lophene*.

profane writers to *Ninus*, and in the Scriptures to *Ashur*, the son of *Shem*, or *Nimrod*, the son of *Cush*.* The history of this metropolis is lost in succeeding ages. It would seem gradually to have fallen into decay after the building of *Babylon*: and, in the reign of *Adrian* it was so completely destroyed, that even the place where it stood was unknown. A city being afterwards erected near the spot, bore the name of *Ninus*: and, in my opinion, it is the ruins of the latter, and not of the old *Nineveh*, that are now visible. I examined these remains in November 1810, and found them to consist of a rampart and fosse, forming an oblong square, not exceeding four miles in compass, if so much. I saw neither stones or rubbish of any kind. The wall is, on an average, twenty feet in height; and, as it is covered with grass, the whole has a striking resemblance to some of the Roman entrenchments which are extant in *England*.

Eight furlongs below *Mosul* we discover the remnants of a magnificent *bund*, or dyke, similar, in many respects, to that of *Shuster*; but so very ancient, that its construction is attributed by the natives of the country to *Nimrod* and *Alexander*. The cascade, occasioned by

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this

* When visited by *Jonas*, who was sent thither by *Jeroboam*, King of *Israel*, it was three days' journey in circumference; and *Diodorus Siculus*, who has given the dimensions of *Nineveh*, says, that it was four hundred and eighty *stadia*, or forty-seven miles, in circuit: that it was surrounded by a wall and towers; the former, one hundred feet in height, and so broad that three chariots might drive on it abreast; and the latter two hundred feet high, and amounting in number to fifteen hundred.

this dam, has led some to imagine it one of the cataracts alluded to in the campaigns of the Macedonian prince, which are evidently the waterfalls of the *Tigris*, between *Diabekr* and *Mosul*.

There are two roads from *Mosul* to *Merdin*, of which that by *Eski Mosul* and the foot of *Mount Masius* is the best. It leads through a well-cultivated country; but being much longer, is less frequented than the other. *Eski Mosul* (old *Mosul*) is a village situated amidst the ruins of a large town on the *Tigris*, nine hours from *Mosul*. Somewhat further up the river is *Jezerat ul Omar*, representing the old fortress of *Bezabde*, and a town of consequence during the invasion of Timur, by whom it was taken and destroyed. Contiguous to this is the district of *Jebal Tor*, or southern extremity of *Mount Masius*, remarkably fruitful, and well peopled with Yezidians, Nestorians, and Jacobites, who have here several convents. The other road leads from the gates of *Mosul* to the district of *Nisibin*, a distance of twenty-four *fursungs*, or eighty-four miles, through a rich country, entirely uninhabited; if we except the village of *Hagne*, where, on the top of a hill, there is a ruined citadel, which from its local position I conjecture to be the ancient castle of *Ur*.

Thirty-four *fursungs* from *Mosul*, twelve from *Merdin*, and, as nearly as I can guess, about five miles from the foot of *Mount Masius*, the attention of the European traveller is attracted by the situation and singular appearance of the petty village of *Nisibin*, which recalls to his remembrance the celebrated fortress of *Nisibis*, which from the time

of Lucullus until the decline of the empire, was regarded by the Romans as the firmest bulwark of the *East*. This city, termed by the Macedonians *Antiochia Migdonia*, was taken by Lucullus from Tigranes, King of *Armenia*. It stood three memorable sieges against the Persian king, who by an article in the treaty of *Dura* was put into quiet possession of a fortress, which had successfully withstood the utmost efforts of his arms. *Nisibis* continued as impregnable in the hands of the Persians, as it had been in those of the Romans. It braved the attacks of successive emperors, baffled the military talents of Belisarius himself, and only lost its consequence when, after the final overthrow of the house of Artaxerxes, it fell, together with the other cities in *Mesopotamia*, into the power of the Saracens.

The foundations of the walls, and several detached towers, as well as part of a church built in honour of St. James, who was formerly bishop of *Nisibis*, are still standing. They overlook the little, but rapid river, *Mygdonius*, and are approached by a small Roman bridge of twelve arches. To the west there is a view of the lofty mountains of *Sinjar*, covered with verdure; and the prospect to the North and East is bounded by the ridge of *Mount Musius*, forming a vast amphitheatre, at the extremity of which, in a clear day, may be descried the distant turrets of *Merdin*. The adjacent country, particularly that on the side of *Mosul*, has a pleasing, as well as flourishing appearance; and the numberless villages which overspread
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the plain, being almost wholly built on little conical hills, bear a striking resemblance to our feudal castles.*

The Archbishop of *Merdin* presented me with several Grecian and Roman coins, accompanied by a few other small antiquities, which he informed me had been dug out of the ruins, about a year ago, by the inhabitants of the village. Amongst these were a beautiful head of Constantine, a Hope, and a Minerva.

The mountains of *Sinjar*, on which stood the fortress of *Sangara*, which was also surrendered to the Persians by the pusillanimous successor of *Julian*, is, I should suppose, about eight or ten miles from *Nisibis*. I was not able to learn much concerning this mountain, as it is at present peopled by several tribes of that sect styled *Yezedi*,† who

* We learn from *Gibbon*, that *Sapor*, in one of his sieges, contrived, by confining the waters of the river, to inundate the country immediately under the walls of *Nisibis*, so that, by having recourse to floating batteries, the assailants were enabled to combat on equal terms the troops who defended the ramparts. But as the elevation of the place is considerably above the level of the country in its immediate vicinity, and the *Mygdonius* is a very insignificant stream, it is difficult to imagine how this work could have been accomplished, even with the wonderful resources which the king must have had at his disposal.

† The *Yezedi*, of which there are a great number in the neighbourhood of *Mosul*, worship, or rather deprecate, the devil; for they have an idea that the power which he possesses over mankind is unlimited. They even dislike to hear the name of the evil spirit mentioned in their presence. They are the descendants of those Arabs who followed

who are the mortal enemies of the Turks, and have never been completely subdued by them. They lie in ambush behind the rising grounds which skirt the road between *Mosul* and *Merdin*; and as travellers are obliged to pass a lonely wild, twenty *farsungs* in length, they are liable, if not numerously attended, to be murdered by these miscreants. *Sinjar* affords abundance of pasturage, and also yields a sufficient quantity of grain for the consumption of its savage inhabitants. In A. D. 341, a bloody battle was fought near this place, between the Emperor Constantius and Sapor the Second, in which the former sustained a total defeat, and was driven by his victorious rival across the *Euphrates*.

About half-way between *Nisibis* and *Merdin* are the towers and ramparts of *Dara*, situated close under the hills; and, with the exception of *Diarbekr*, in a more perfect condition than any Roman fortification which I have seen East of the *Euphrates*. This city owed its origin to the Emperor Anatasius, A. D. 505; and was taken, after a siege of nine months, by Chosroes Nushshirvan, A. D. 572.* It still bears the name of *Constantine Dara*; and, like *Nisibis*, has been on the decline ever since the conquest of the Arabs, in 641.

The

followed the banners of Yezid, and fought against Hoss-ein, in the battle of *Kecibela*; and Sheikh Ade, the founder of the sect, is interred near *Mosul*. They adore one Supreme Being as the creator and benefactor of the human race, drink wine and other strong liquors, and circumcise like the Mahomedans. The Turks have an astonishing aversion for these people, and I imagine the hatred is mutual.

Gibbon.

The term *Mesopotamia*, correctly speaking, comprises the whole tract between the two great rivers. It has generally, however, been only applied to the plain lying between the wall of *Macepracta* and *Mount Musius*, which touching the *Tigris* on one side and the *Euphrates* on the other, changes entirely the nature of the country, all to the S. E. of it being flat and sandy, and all to the N. W. mountainous and rugged. On the southern side, and not far from the top of one of the most lofty mountains of this ridge, is situated the city of *Merdin*, commanded by a castle, which crowns the summit of the rock.* *Merdin*, as may be supposed, is difficult of access. On the North side it can only be approached by a narrow pathway, which winds amidst the rocks and precipices : on the South the road is somewhat better, but still very steep, and about a mile and a half in length. This is the ancient station of *Marde*, and yet retains much of the appearance of a Roman town. Although in so elevated a situation, it has within itself a plentiful supply of the finest water ; and as the vine is cultivated with success in the recesses of the mountains, wine and brandy (arrack) are made by the Armenians in considerable quantities. The houses are all built of fine hewn stone, and appear to be very old.

The

* I visited, during my travels, two other castles, exactly similar to that at *Merdin* : the first at *Tocat*, the largest and finest city in *Asia Minor*, and the other at *Amasia*, the birth-place of Strabo. Here I saw some very extraordinary sculptures cut in the side of the rock, said to be the tombs of the ancient kings of *Pontus*, who, for some time, held their court at *Amasia*.

The windows are small, grated with iron; and from the position of the town on a declivity, added to the narrowness of the streets, the buildings seem progressively to rise, one on the top of the other. The population of *Merdin* amounts to nearly eleven thousand souls, of which fifteen hundred are Armenians and two hundred Jews; the remainder are Turks, Arabs, and Kurds. The Armenians have here several churches, and a patriarch, who was educated at Rome: he is a well-informed man, and highly respected even by the Turks. The walls of the city are kept in tolerable repair, and a few old pieces of cannon are mounted on the towers of the castle, which is now in a very dilapidated state, and has never been completely repaired, since the place was taken by Timur. *Merdin* is forty-six *fursungs* from *Mosul* and eighteen from *Diarbekr*. It is the frontier town of the *Pashalik* of *Bagdad* towards *Constantinople*, and under the government of a *Mussuleem* appointed by the *Pasha*.

As it would be foreign to the object for which this Memoir has been drawn up, to illustrate the position of every ancient station now deserted or fallen into decay (a task which has already been so ably executed by M. D'Anville), I shall content myself in following the course of the *Euphrates*, from the junction with the *Khabour* to its mouths, by merely mentioning the most celebrated of those stations, together with the towns and principal villages at the present moment inhabited. The first place is *Kerkesia*, built on an angle formed by the union of the *Euphrates* and *Khabour*. This is the Roman *Circe-*

sium, fortified by Diocletian, who made it the barrier of the empire, and where a garrison of six thousand soldiers was usually maintained. *Rava* is the only town between *Kerkesia* and *Annah*, and consists of about two hundred stone houses * in the midst of extensive ruins. On the opposite side of the river are the remains of a castle, erected on the summit of a rock. *Annah* (the *Anatho* of Ammianus Marcellinus) is a well-built town, about a mile in length, on the East bank of the *Euphrates*, four miles from *Rava*, and seven days' journey by a caravan from *Bagdad*. This place has, since the rebellion of the late *Pasha*, become subject to the *Sheikh* of the Jarbai Arabs, and its environs produce a fair proportion of dates, corn, and cotton.

Ten hours below *Annah*, *Hadida* (the *Pombedita* of the ancients) boasts of three hundred houses, with a number of fruit-gardens in its vicinity. Six hours from thence is the village of *Alloos*, which has a hundred and fifty-nine houses : and four hours from the latter is *Juba*, which from the natural strength of its situation, in an island of the *Euphrates*, I apprehend to be the fortress of *Thilutha*, impregnable to the arms of Julian. *Juba*, in its present state, comprises but four hundred houses ; and the island, which is nearly two miles in length, is tolerably cultivated, and adorned with gardens, intersected with groves of date and other fruit-trees.

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* It is to be remarked, that perhaps not above two-thirds, or even half of the houses in these villages are inhabited.

Nine hours from *Juba*, and twenty-seven from *Bagdad*, stands *Hit*, mentioned in history under the names of *Is* and *Acopolis*, as the place which afforded the bitumen wherewith the walls of *Babylon* were built. It occupies the western bank of the river, contains about six hundred houses, and is surrounded with an old mud wall. A bridge of boats has been here thrown across the *Euphrates*, for the accommodation of the caravans of *Bagdad* and *Aleppo*. A few hours below *Hit* is *Meshed*, a village of three hundred houses; and next to *Meshed* is *Felugia*,* or *Anbar*, which, under the appellation of *Perisabur*, is ranked, in the history of the campaigns of *Julian*, as the second city in *Assyria*. An attempt was made at that place to arrest the progress of the Roman general; but it was taken, after a short siege of two days. The city was reduced to ashes, and a small palace has since been erected on its ruins, by *Soliman the Great*, *Pasha* of *Bagdad*. The pilgrims going to *Kerbela* generally cross the river at this spot; on a bridge of boats. The large and populous town of *Kerbela*, or *Meshed Hossein*, seven *fursungs* N.W. of *Hilleh*, stands at the extremity of a very noble canal drawn from the *Euphrates*. This is the *Vologesia* † mentioned by the ancient geographers as an inconsiderable place; but since the death of *Hossein*, the son of *Ali*, by

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Fatima,

* The battle of *Cannax*, where the younger *Cyrus* lost his life, was fought in the plain between *Hit* and *Felugia*.

† Built by *Vologese*, one of the Parthian kings, cotemporary with *Nero* and *Vespasian*.

Fatima, the daughter of the Prophet, who was slain near, and is interred at *Kerbela*, it has increased in magnitude, and become more known, from the numerous bodies of pilgrims of the sect of Ali, who continually flock to it from all quarters, but in particular from *Persia*, to pay their devotions at the shrine. The environs of the town and borders of the canal are shaded by extensive plantations of palm-trees; and the walls, which are upwards of two miles in circumference, have lately been repaired, to secure the riches of the holy city against the predatory incursions of the Wahabee, by whom it was plundered some years ago.* *Kerbela* has five gates, a well-supplied *bazar*, and seven *khans* or *caravanseras*; but the chief, and indeed only ornaments of the city, are the tomb of Hossein, which is adorned with a lofty cupola, gilded by Nadir Shah, and a noble mosque, consecrated to the memory of Abbas, the half-brother of the *Imam*. Although *Meshed Hossein* is subject to the Turks, the majority of the inhabitants are Persians; and it has ever been, and still is, a favorite object of their king, to obtain possession of this place, as well as of *Meshed Ali* and *Kazameen*. The canal of *Kerbela*, or *Nahr Sares*, though it now bears the name of *Hosseini*, is more ancient than the days of Alexander, and is supposed, at one time, to have been connected with the *Bahr Nijiff*.

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* The progress of this sect appears now to be at a stand: few proselytes have been made for a number of years past, and the most paltry fortification has been found sufficient to arrest the career of their conquests.

In the Latitude of $32^{\circ} 25'$ N., and, according to my reckoning, fifty-four miles from *Bagdad*, stands the modern town of *Hilleh*, on the banks of the *Euphrates*. It covers a very small portion of the space occupied by the ancient capital of *Assyria*, the ruins of which have excited the curiosity and admiration of the few European travellers, whom chance or business has conducted to this remote quarter of the globe, and have been partially described by Benjamin of Tudela, Beauchamp, and Pietro Della Valle.

Nimrood, afterwards worshipped as a God, under the name of Belus, is the supposed founder of this great and celebrated city. Herodotus, however, says nothing of its founder; and only informs us, that it was strengthened and adorned by Semiramis and Nicotris, two of its sovereigns. Many of the most eminent of the ancient historians have described the wonders of *Babylon*. Its dimensions are furnished by Herodotus, Strabo, Diodorus Siculus, and Pliny, and the lowest computation will allow three hundred and sixty *stadia* for the circuit of its walls;* or, according to Major Rennel, an area of seventy-two square miles. This space, although inclosed within the walls, was not entirely filled with buildings, but like the modern cities of *Bassora*, *Bagdad*, and *Ispahan*, most probably contained extensive gardens and even cultivated fields. The city is described by Herodotus
as

* Herodotus says four hundred and eighty; Strabo, three hundred and eighty-five; Curtius, three hundred and sixty-eight; and Diodorus, from Ctesian, three hundred and sixty.

as being of a quadrangular shape, situated in a level plain, and divided into two equal parts by the *Euphrates*. The walls, from the most moderate accounts, would appear to have been seventy-five feet in height and thirty-two* in breadth : they were built of brick, cemented with bitumen, and encompassed by a ditch lined with the same materials. One hundred brazen gates, twenty-five in each face, opened into as many streets, which intersected and cut each other at right angles, dividing the city into six hundred and twenty-six squares. Many of the houses were three or four stories high, and separated from each by small courts or gardens. The banks of the *Euphrates* were faced with brick, and the inhabitants descended by steps to the water, through small brass gates fixed in a lofty wall, which ran parallel with the river. The bridge, by which the two quarters of the city were connected, was five furlongs in length and thirty feet in breadth. The stones were joined together with clamps of iron and molten lead ; it was floored with beams of cedar, cypress, and palm-trees, and for art and curiosity yielded to none of the works of Semiramis. A palace was erected at each end of the bridge, commanding a prospect of the city ; and as the *Euphrates* flowed from North to South, one of them stood on the East, and the other on the West bank of the river. That on the West was surrounded by three walls, and was sixty furlongs, or seven miles and a half in circumference. The palaces having been
completed,

* Herodotus says they were two hundred cubits, or three hundred feet in height, and seventy-five feet in breadth.

completed, Seniramis dug a prodigious pond, or lake, into which the waters of the *Euphrates* were diverted,* that a vaulted passage might be cut under its bed, from one palace to the other.

The temple of Jupiter, or Belus, is differently described by different authors. Herodotus says it was a square of two *stadia*, or one thousand feet, in the middle of which arose an enormous tower, of the solid depth and height of one *stadium*, and consisting of eight turrets, built one above the other, and gradually decreasing towards the top.† It was ascended by a winding staircase on the exterior; and on the summit stood a chapel, containing a couch, magnificently adorned, and a golden table. It was built, according to Diodorus, of brick and bitumen, and on its top the statues of Jupiter, Juno, and Rhea, in beaten gold. That of Jupiter, or Belus, was forty feet in height, and stood in an upright posture. Rhea was represented as sitting, and Juno as standing. Diodorus also mentions the golden table, as well as many other valuable articles, which he says the Persians sacrilegiously

* There was no great difficulty in turning the course of the *Euphrates*, in a country where its banks are above the level of the adjoining plain; but it is difficult to suppose, that its waters should have been confined to the limits of an artificial lake: they must have either overflowed the whole of the surrounding country, or forced a passage to the sea.

† These dimensions appear so disproportionate, that Major Rennel, who has discussed this subject with his usual ability, doubts the authenticity of the assertion of Herodotus. He judiciously observes, that the idea of a perpendicular wall, five hundred feet in height and as much in length, is ridiculous; particularly when it is only one side of a base for a superstructure, that must be supposed to bear some proportion to it.

ligiously carried away. The temple of *Belus*, agreeably to Strabo, was a *stadium* in height, and a *stadium* square at the base. It was plundered, and partly demolished by Xerxes; and Alexander, anxious to restore it to its former grandeur, employed ten thousand men, for two months, in removing the rubbish, when his death put a period to the undertaking.

The Babylonian empire was subverted by Cyrus, who took the capital, by turning the course of the *Euphrates*, and marching his troops along the bed of the river into the centre of the city. The walls and temple of *Belus* are said to have been demolished by Xerxes, on his return from the Grecian expedition; but this could not have been the case, as we find them still standing in the time of Alexander. After the building of *Seleucia* and *Ctesiphon*, it became gradually deserted; and we learn from St. Jerome that the space within the walls was converted by the Parthian kings into a royal hunting park. From this period we cease to hear of Babylon as a city: but notwithstanding so many ages of barbarism and ignorance have passed away, tradition still continues to identify both its name and situation. The town of *Hilleh* is said, by the people of the country, to be built on the site of *Babel*; and some gigantic ruins, still to be seen in its vicinity, are believed to be the remains of that ancient metropolis.

I visited these ruins in 1808; and my friend Captain Frederick, whose name I have had frequent occasion to mention in this Memoir, spent six days in minutely examining every thing worthy of attention,

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for many miles around *Hilleh*. I shall, therefore, without noticing the description given by former travellers, state first what was seen by myself, and afterwards the result of Captain Frederick's inquiries. The principal ruin, and that which is thought to represent the temple of Belus, is four miles North of *Hilleh*, and a quarter of a mile from the East bank of the *Euphrates*. This stupendous monument of antiquity is a huge pyramid, nine hundred paces* in circumference, and, as nearly as I could guess, about two hundred and twenty feet in height at the most elevated part. It is an exact quadrangle. Three of its faces are still perfect; but that towards the South has lost more of its regularity than the others. This pyramid is built entirely of brick† dried in the sun, cemented in some places with bitumen and regular layers of reeds, and in others with slime and reeds, which appeared to me as fresh as if they had only been used a few days before. Quantities of furnace-baked brick were, however, scattered at the foot of the pyramid: and it is more than probable that it was once faced with the latter, which have been removed by the natives for the construction of their houses. The outer edges of the bricks, from being exposed to

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Captain Frederick measured the East and South faces at the top, and found the former to be one hundred and eighty, and the latter one hundred and ninety paces, at two feet and a half each pace.

† All that Captain Frederick saw were cemented with bitumen. On entering a small cavern, however, about twenty feet in depth, I found that the bricks in the interior of the mass were invariably cemented with slime and layers of reeds at each course.

the weather, have mouldered away: it is, therefore, only on minute examination, that the nature of the materials of which it is composed can be ascertained. When viewed from a distance, the ruin has more the appearance of a small hill than a building. The ascent is in most places so gentle, that a person may ride all over it. Deep ravines have been sunk by the periodical rains; and there are numerous long narrow cavities, or passages, which are now the unmolested retreat of jackals, hyænas, and other noxious animals. The bricks of which this structure is built are larger, and much inferior to any other I have seen: they have no inscriptions upon them, and are seldom used by the natives, on account of their softness. The name given by the Arabs to this ruin is *Haroot* and *Maroot*; for they believe that, near the foot of the pyramid, there still exists (although invisible to mankind) a well, in which those two wicked angels were condemned by the Almighty to be suspended by the heels until the end of the world, as a punishment for their vanity and presumption.* M. Della Valle mentions several smaller mounds, as being situated in the plain in the immediate vicinity of the pyramid. Captain Frederick and myself looked in vain for these mounds: we could only discern the high banks of a canal, running parallel to the S.W. face of the square, and a mound, about half a mile distant, of which I shall speak hereafter.

On

* For the story of *Haroot* and *Maroot*, see D'Herbelot, and Richardson's *Persian Dictionary*.

On the opposite side of the river, and about six miles S.W. of *Hilleh*, a second eminence, not quite so large as that just mentioned, but of greater elevation, would seem to have escaped the observation of modern travellers; with the exception of Niebuhr, by whom it is slightly mentioned. It is formed of furnace-baked and sun-dried bricks, about one foot in diameter, and from three to four inches thick. This pyramid is styled *Nimrood* by the Arabs; and on its summit are the remains of a small square tower, the wall of which is eight feet thick, and, as nearly as I could guess, about fifty in height. It is built of furnace-baked bricks, of a yellowish colour, cemented with slime, but no reeds or bitumen were perceptible. From this tower there is a most extensive view of the windings of the *Euphrates*, through the level plain of *Shinar*. Its banks are lined with villages and orchards, and here and there a few scattered hamlets in the desert appeared like spots on the surface of the ocean. On the top and sides of the mound I observed several fragments of different colours, resembling, in appearance, pieces of misshapen rock. Captain Frederick examined these curious fragments with much attention, and was at first inclined to think that they were consolidated pieces of fallen masonry: but this idea was soon laid aside, as they were found so hard as to resist iron, in the manner of any other very hard stone, and the junction of the bricks was not to be discerned. It is difficult to form a conjecture concerning these extraordinary fragments, some of which are six and eight feet in diameter, as there is no stone of such a quality to be procured any

where in the neighbouring country, and we could see or hear of no building of which they could form a part. Here, those bricks which have inscriptions on them, are generally found by the Arabs, who are constantly employed in digging for them, to build the houses at *Hilleh*. About a hundred and twenty paces from this pyramid is another, not so high, but of greater circumference at the base. Bricks are dug in great quantities from this place; but none, I believe, with inscriptions. About one mile and a half from *Hilleh*, on the eastern bank of the *Euphrates*, Captain Frederick discovered a longitudinal mound, close on the edge of the river; and two miles farther up, in an easterly direction, a second, more extensive than the first. He was given to understand that the Arabs were in the habits of procuring vast quantities of burnt brick from this mound, none of which, however, had any inscriptions. He perceived, on examination, a wall of red bricks, in one part even with the surface of the ground, and open to the depth of thirty feet in the mound, the earth having been moved for the purpose of procuring the bricks. At another place, not far distant, were the remains of an extensive building. Some of its walls were in great preservation, ten feet above the surface of the rubbish; and the foundation, at another part, had not been reached at the depth of forty-five feet. It was six feet eight inches thick, built of a superior kind of yellowish brick, furnace-baked, and cemented, not with bitumen or reeds, but lime mixed with sand. A decayed tree, not far from this spot, was shewn by the country people, as being coeval with
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the building itself. Its girth, two feet from the ground, measured four feet seven inches, and it might be about twenty feet in height: it was hollow, and apparently very old.* The great pyramid, first mentioned, is only about half, or three-quarters of a mile from this mound.

Captain Frederick having carefully examined every mound or spot, described by the natives as belonging to *Babel*, endeavoured to discover if anything remained of the ancient city wall. He commenced by riding five miles down the bank of the river, and then by following its windings, sixteen miles † North of *Hilleh*, on the eastern side. The western bank was explored with the same minuteness; but not a trace of any deep excavation, or any rubbish or mounds (excepting those already mentioned) were discovered. Leaving the river, he proceeded from *Hilleh* to a village named *Karakooli*, a distance of fifteen miles, in a N.W. direction, without meeting anything worthy of remark. He next rode, in a parallel line, six miles to the West, and as many to the East of the pyramid of *Haroot* and *Maroot*, and returned

* Former travellers have asserted, that they saw a number of very old and uncommon looking trees along the banks of the river: but neither Captain Frederick or myself saw any but this one; and it certainly differed from the other trees which grow in the neighbourhood.

† At the twelfth mile he was shewn a heap of red and white burnt brick, called by the Arabs the *Pumum*, or bath. It appeared, however, to be the remains of a modern building, as the colour and general appearance of the bricks were different from those in the neighbourhood of *Hilleh*.

returned to *Hilleh*, disappointed in all his expectations; for within a space of twenty-one miles in length and twelve in breadth, he was unable to discover anything that could admit of a conclusion, that either a wall or ditch had ever existed within this area.*

The size, situation, and construction of the pyramid of *Haroot* and *Maroot* have led Major Rennel and D'Anville to suppose it to be the remains of the Temple of Belus. The latter, as we already stated, is described as being a square of a *stadium* in breadth, and of equal dimensions at the base, and built of brick cemented with bitumen. The mass which we now see is an exact quadrangle, which ten feet within the outer edge of the rubbish measured nine hundred paces, or two thousand two hundred and fifty feet, exceeding the circuit of the base of the Tower of Belus by two hundred and fifty feet: a trifling excess, when we consider how much it must have increased by the falling ruins. Its elevation, at the S.W. angle, is still upwards of two hundred feet; which is very great, considering its antiquity, and the soft materials of which it is composed. Strabo represents the Temple of Belus as having an exterior coat of burnt brick; and, as I have before said, there is every reason to believe, from the accumulation of pieces of furnace-baked bricks at the foot of each face, that this was the case with the great pyramid to the North of *Hilleh*. We are, however, left in some doubt respecting the situation of the temple. Diodorus
says

* Captain Frederick informed me, that he dedicated eight and ten hours each day to his inquiries, during his stay at *Hilleh*.

says that it stood in the centre of the city : but the text is obscure ; and it may be inferred, that the palace on the East bank of the *Euphrates* and temple were the same. If this be the case, we may be permitted to conjecture, that the *Euphrates* once pursued a course different from that which it now follows, and that it flowed between the pyramid of *Haroot* and *Maroot* and the mound and ruins, already mentioned as half a mile further to the West. The present course of the river would appear to justify this conclusion ; for it bends suddenly towards these mounds, and has the appearance of having formerly passed between them. Should this conjecture be admitted, then will the ruins just mentioned be found to answer the description given by the ancients of the materials, size, and situation of the two principal edifices in *Babylon*. But if not, we shall continue in ignorance concerning the remains of the palace ; for the pyramid of *Nimrod* is far too distant from the river and the other ruins, to incline us to suppose it to have been the royal residence.

From what has already been observed, it must be obvious to the reader, that there were several kinds of bricks in use amongst the Babylonians, some of which were burnt by fire, and others dried in the sun. Of the former there appears to have been four kinds. The most common are about a foot square, and three inches thick, with a distich of the characters so common at *Persepolis*, and similar in appearance to the barb of an arrow. There are others of the same size, without inscriptions upon them, similar in appearance to those
made

made in our own country, which are procured in the neighbourhood of *Nimrood* tower. The latter, as well as a small cylindrical brick, more scarce than any of the others, have in general also small characters upon them. The sun-dried bricks are, for the most part, larger and coarser than those hardened by fire, and seem to have been only used for the common purposes.

The town of *Hilleh* contains about twelve thousand inhabitants ; and the two quarters of the city, fronting each other on opposite banks of the *Euphrates*, are connected by a bridge of boats, two hundred paces in length. The quarter on the West side is the most considerable : here is an extensive and well-regulated *bazar*, several stately *caravanse-ras* built of Babylonian brick, and a number of coffee-houses along the banks of the river. It is governed by a *Hakeem* appointed by the *Pasha* of *Bagdad*. The soil in the vicinity is remarkably fertile, but quite neglected ; and were it not for the marshes of *Lemloon*, which at all times interrupt, and for six months in the year entirely obstruct the commerce with *Bussora*, *Hilleh* might become a very flourishing place. The *Euphrates* widens considerably as it approaches *Hilleh* : it is here about two hundred paces in breadth, and in the spring about forty feet in depth. It is not so rapid as the *Tigris* ; and when low, its waters are thrown up by means of a machine, constructed on the edge of the bank. The tides of the *Persian Gulf* are felt twenty or twenty-five miles above *Korna* ; and flat-bottomed vessels, not exceeding fifty tons burthen, can pass to *Hilleh* during six months in the year.

year. These boats are of a most singular construction. The body, in shape, resembles a half moon, the ribs and planks are roughly nailed together, and the outside is covered with *naphtha*, or bitumen: there is no keel, and the rudder, which is formed of a number of spars, clumsily bound together, is nearly as large as the vessel: the rigging consists of one mast and a lateen sail. When proceeding to *Bassora*, they float down with the stream; but are tracked, on their return, against the current. There is another kind of boat, called a *kufu*, much in use, both on the *Euphrates* and *Tigris*. It is perfectly round, made of wicker-work covered with bitumen, and generally about seven feet in diameter.*

The geographical position of *Babylon* has been fully established, both by Rennel and D'Anville, and we may safely conclude, that it occupied the situation assigned to it. The distance of forty-four miles, given by Strabo and the Theodosian tables, from *Seleucia*; its situation on the banks of the *Euphrates*; the distance from *Is*, mentioned by Herodotus; the ruins themselves; the unknown characters on the bricks; the bitumen cement, and the tradition of the natives; all concur in placing the site of *Babylon* in the neighbourhood of *Hilleh*.

Two leagues to the S. E. of the town is the village of *Boursa*, thought to be the *Boursippa* of Strabo, to which Alexander retired,

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when

* Circular boats, made of reeds, and in the form of a shield, attracted the attention of Herodotus: and it is curious to observe, that so little alteration has taken place in their construction, during the lapse of so many ages.

when warned by the Chaldeans not to enter *Babylon*; and on the road to *Meshed Ali* is the tomb of the prophet *Ezekiel*, where they pretend to show the fiery furnace of *Shadrach*, *Mesbach*, and *Abednego*. It is a large clumsy building, without beauty or ornament; and like the tomb of *Ezra*, on the banks of the *Tigris*, a short way above *Korna*, is much frequented by Jewish pilgrims.

The holy city of *Nejiff*, or *Meshed Ali* (the supposed burying place of the Caliph *Ali*), is nine *farsungs* from *Hilleh* and four miles from *Kufa*, and situate on a hill, at the bottom of which is an artificial lake. This city was founded by Alexander the Great, and for a long time bore the name of *Alexandria*,* which was afterwards changed into that of *Hira*, when it became the residence of a dynasty of Arabian princes, who fought under the Parthian banners against the emperors of Rome. It is also known in history under the general appellation of *Almondari*, after the name of *Almondar* (the *Almondarus* of *Procopius*) distinguished in the wars of *Nushirwan* and *Justinian*. The Christian family of this prince reigned over the kingdom of *Hira* for the space of six hundred years, when the last of the

* Dr. Vincent is of opinion, in opposition to D'Anville, that Alexandria was on the other side of the lake; and it is worthy of remark, that mounds of rubbish, brick, and coloured tile, the usual indications of the former existence of a city in this country, may still be seen in the quarter alluded to by the learned Dean, who does not seem to have been aware of this circumstance.

the race was defeated, and put to death, by Caled, the Saracen general, A.D. 632. *Nejiff* is not so large as *Kerbela*, but better built, and defended by a good wall, deep ditch, and lofty towers, lately renewed, in consequence of their dread of an attack from the Wahabee, who extend their ravages to the very gates of the town. The tomb and mosque of Ali fills an ample space in the middle of the city. It is an handsome structure, encircled by a high wall, within which it is death for an infidel to pass, unless in disguise, and under the protection of the *Imam*, who must be secretly bribed with a large sum. The dome is light and elegant, and together with the tips of the minarets was gilded, by the order and at the expence of Nadir Shah. The governor of *Meshed Ali* is a Turk; but the population, which it is impossible to estimate, from the constant influx of pilgrims, is, like that of *Kerbela*, chiefly composed of Persian fanatics. The environs of the town are arid and barren, and derive a sombre appearance from the number of the burying-grounds, which have increased to a great extent, in consequence of the superstition of the *Sheiks*; for the relics of almost every person of rank or consequence are transported, from the most remote parts of *Persia*, to be interred either here, at *Kerbela*, *Kazameen*, *Koom*, or *Meshed* in *Khorassan*. *Nejiff* was supplied with water by a subterraneous aqueduct, connected with the cut of *Pallacopas*; but the Wahabee, in order to distress the city, broke down and otherwise destroyed this aqueduct in many places, so that when I was at *Meshed Ali*, in August 1808, the inhabitants of the

town were reduced to the necessity of bringing their water in sheep skins, from a distance of three or four miles. The *Pallacopas* was dug by the first of the Babylonian kings, and repaired by the commands of the Macedonian hero; but having, since the desertion of *Kufa*, become nearly dry, was, about twenty years ago, partially cleaned out, at the expence of the *Nahob* of *Oude*, in honour of whom the Arabs now call it *Hindi*. It is drawn from the right of the *Euphrates*; and that part of it which still holds water, reaches to within about five miles of *Meshed Ali*: the remainder is dry, and nearly choaked up with sand; but the traces of the *Pallacopas* may be followed from the *Bahr Nejjiff* to the town of *Zobeir* and the *Khore Abdallah*.* The *Bahr Nejjiff*, or sea of *Nejjiff* (the *Rahimah* of D'Anville), boasts an equal antiquity with the *Pallacopas*, and must have been a work of infinite labour. I passed through the middle of it, in my way from *Samarat* to *Meshed Ali*, and found it dry, with the exception of a few ravines and channels of water, near which the poorer classes raise a small quantity of rice and vegetables.

From the hill of *Nejjiff* may be descried the site of *Kufa*, once a large and populous city, founded by Omar, after the ruin of *Ctesiphon*, and the residence of the *Caliphs*, until the vices of the inhabitants compelled

The *Pallacopas* was cut for the purpose of drawing off the superfluous waters of the *Euphrates*, which were first discharged into a fenny country, and afterwards, by sundry secret and subterraneous passages, into the sea. (*Arrian*.)

compelled Almanzor to remove the seat of government to *Bagdad*. Little is left of *Kufa* but the mosque, where Ali was assassinated :— a plain edifice, in the form of a square, with a court in the centre, surrounded with a cloister. There is but one entrance, through an elegant gateway ; and the walls being high, and flanked with bastions, give it more the appearance of a castle than of a place of worship. The Mahomedans hold in high veneration the spot on which this mosque has been built ; and to add to its sanctity in the eyes of the multitude, their *Imams*, or priests, have invented many wonderful stories respecting it. They relate, amongst other fables, that on a certain day, all the prophets, from Moses to our Saviour, assembled in divan at this place, to consult with Mahomed on the affairs of the world, and on the best means of promoting Islamism : and they exhibit a number of stones, which it is said were erected to commemorate the positions where each of the prophets offered up their supplications to God, at the conclusion of the consultation. Another of their traditions is, that the *Ark* was built in the centre of the court ; and the waters of the flood rushed through a dark and narrow aperture, or rather well, discernible immediately under the spot where the *Ark* is supposed to have rested. Hossein and Hassan, the sons of Ali, were partly educated in a subterraneous chamber under the court ; and in one of the corners of the cloister is a small room, which they call the house of Jesus, where I observed engraved on a small block of marble, “ Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews and of Jerusalem.”

On

On returning to the *Euphrates*, the first village worthy of notice is *Lemloon*,* ten miles above the spot where the river is lost in the marshes of that name. We learn from Sir Harford Jones, the late resident of *Bagdad*, that these marshes have been greatly increased since 1784,† when the great Soliman Pasha threw a bank across the river at *Deleania*, with an intention of turning the course of the stream into an old channel, for the purpose of attacking the *Alghazyl* Arabs with greater advantage. The obstruction which the *Euphrates* met with on this occasion, and the rubbish carried down by the stream, in consequence of the dyke giving way, was productive of much mischief. The low and unwholesome districts in the vicinity of the marshes of *Lemloon*, produce, as I have before stated, abundance of rice, and are peopled by the tribe of *Alghazyl*, who live in tents, and in huts made of reeds. *Lemloon* is situated something more than half way between *Bussora* and *Hilleh*. About ninety miles from *Meshed Ali*, across the desert, and seven or eight hours' sail from the southern extremity of the marshes, stands the town of *Samavat* (the celestial city), containing a population of about three hundred Arabs, ruled by an independent *Sheikh*, who levies exorbitant contributions on all the pilgrims

* Between *Lemloon* and *Najiff*, at a distance from the river, is the village of *Ramahi*, seven hours S. E. of the latter, with a tolerably handsome mosque.

† The marshes in this part of the country are mentioned by most of the ancient historians.

pilgrims who take this route to the holy cities. To the south of *Samavat* the banks of the *Euphrates* are uninhabited, and covered with thick brushwood, as far as the territories of the powerful tribe of Montefidge; where the first village of any consequence is *Shukashu*, one day's sail from *Korna*. This village is situate on the west bank of the river: it is as large as *Samavat*, but much more flourishing; for the *Euphrates*, which is navigable, even in the driest season, for boats of considerable burthen as far up as this place (where the effects of the tide are also felt), enables the inhabitants to carry on a trifling traffic with *Bussora*. *Shukashu* is a great mart for horses, and is famed for the richness of the clover raised in its vicinity.

From this village to *Korna* the *Euphrates* pursues, with a gentle current, a meandering course, when meeting the waters of the *Tigris*, these streams combined receive the name of the *Shat-ul-Arah*, and constitute one of the noblest rivers in the *East*. *Korna*, which is one of three *Apameas* built by Seleucus, in honor of his first wife, *Apama*, is situated at the point of a triangle, formed by the confluence of these two streams. *Apamea*, although now dwindled into a petty town, was formerly a place of consequence. The position is admirable, and was recommended by General Malcolm, as worthy of the attention of the Marquis Wellesley, when that enlightened statesman was Governor General of *India*. An impregnable fortress might here be erected, at a very trifling expence, which would completely command the navigation

tion of both rivers, repress the turbulent and licentious disposition of the neighbouring Arabs, and, in a word, give complete command to its possessors of all the countries between *Bagdad* and *Bussora*. The channels of the *Tigris* and *Euphrates* are so deep, that a small ship of war might anchor close to the works; and a canal cut across the base of the triangle, from one river to the other, would render any other fortification unnecessary.

The banks of the *Tigris*, from *Tauke Kesra* to *Korna*, cannot boast of a single village, or even habitation; with the exception of *Koot*, a miserable place, containing forty or fifty mud huts. The city of *Wasith*, repeatedly spoken of in the Arabian histories, is no longer a place of any consequence: it stands on the banks of the *Hye*, or great canal. From *Korna* to the neighbourhood of *Bussora*, there is little or no cultivation: but from thence, the country bordering on the banks of the river is covered with plantations of date-trees, which continue, without interruption, almost to the mouth of the *Shat-ul-Arab*.

The city of *Bussora*, or, more correctly speaking, *Basra*, was founded by Omar, A.D. 636, and so happily placed, that in the space of a few years it became one of the largest and most flourishing cities of *Arabia*. It is situated in Latitude $31^{\circ} 30'$ N., on the western bank of the *Shat-ul-Arab*, and seventy miles from the mouth of that noble stream, which is navigable as far up as the city for ships of five
hundred

hundred tons burthen. The circuit of the walls of *Bussora*, which are kept in a tolerable state of repair, is, at the very lowest computation, seven miles. They are washed by the waters of the *Shat-ul-Arab*, and the adjacent plain is so little elevated, that it is sometimes completely under water, the city remaining, as it were, an island in the middle of a lake. Of the vast area within the walls, the greater proportion is taken up with gardens and plantations of palm-trees, intersected by a number of little canals, cleared twice a day, on the ebb and the flow of the tide, which rises nine feet perpendicular. The largest of these canals is continually crowded with small vessels, and approaches the English factory and the palace of the *Mussaleem*, which are situated about two miles from the river. *Bussora* is, without any exception, the most filthy town I ever beheld: the streets are exceedingly narrow; and the stench of the privies, which are every where exposed to view, is intolerable. The houses are meanly built, partly of sun dried and partly of burnt brick; and the *bazars*, although stocked with the richest merchandize, are miserable structures, not arched, as we find them in *Bagdad* and the cities of *Persia*, but covered with mats laid on rafters of date-trees, which hardly afford protection from the scorching rays of the sun. The city has five gates, *khans* and coffee-houses without number, a wretched *hummum*, and of upwards of forty mosques only one worthy of the name. The *seroi* of the *Mussaleem*, a mosque, and the English factory, are the only decent buildings in *Bussora*. They are all contiguous to each other; and the

last was chiefly built by Mr. Manesty, the British resident, who for thirty years maintained unsullied the dignity and honor of his country, and whose urbanity and abilities acquired him more real influence in the city and the neighbourhood, than was possessed even by the *Pasha of Bagdad*. The population of *Bussora* amounts, I should suppose, to about sixty thousand souls, and is composed of an heterogeneous mixture of nearly every nation in the *East*: Turks, Arabs, Indians, Persians, Armenians, Jacobites, and Jews. The Arabs, however, constitute the majority of the community, and the number of the Turks, considering that they are masters of the town, is small. Almost every inhabitant of *Bussora* is, in some way or other, concerned in trade; and as this city is the grand emporium for all the Indian commodities sent into the Turkish empire, its commerce, it must be presumed, is very considerable. On an average, three or four English ships, of about four hundred tons burthen, arrive in the course of the year from *Calcutta*: but the chief part of the traffic is carried on in Arabian bottoms; and the merchants of *Muscat* now possess some of the finest vessels that navigate the *Indian Seas*. The returns of *Bussora*, for the produce of our dominions in *Hindostan*, are principally bullion, pearls, dates, copper, raw-silk, horses, and gall-nuts. The Turkish fleet, which in former times was sufficiently strong to suppress the power of the pirates who continually infest the *Persian Gulf*, is now reduced to ten or twelve rotten hulks, incapable of moving out of the river; and the dignified office of *Captain Pasha*, then held immediately

diately under the *Porte*, is regarded as one of the most insignificant appointments of the *Pasha* of *Bagdad*.

Bussora was conquered by the Turks, in 1668, and since that period has witnessed many revolutions. After a siege of eight months, it was taken by the Persians, under Sadick Khan, in 1777. This prince held it about a year, when aspiring to the throne of *Persia*, on the death of his brother, Kerim Khan, he evacuated the city, and retired with his troops to *Shirauz*, where he was shortly afterwards put to death. The Turks were again deprived of *Bussora*, in 1787, by the *Sheikh* of the Montefidge Arabs: but the town was soon recovered by Solyman Pasha, who, in the October following, encountered the *Sheikh*, on the banks of the *Euphrates*, and put him to flight. The *Mussaleem* or governor, has ever since been sent from *Bagdad*, and is in general an officer of high rank. The country adjoining the town, besides rice, wheat, barley, and five kinds of dates, yields various sorts of fruits and vegetables. Amongst the former we have apricots, apples, figs, olives, pomegranates, and grapes, and of the latter, cabbage, brocoli, lettuce, onions, peas, beans, and truffles, in vast quantities. There are whole fields of roses, which the inhabitants cultivate for the purposes of distillation, the essence and water made from these being here articles of trade; and the licorice-plant, which is so common to the plains of *Persia*, grows amidst the date groves on the borders of the river. About ten miles west of the city is a town, called *Zobeir*, situated on the dry canal of the *Djarre Zade*, supposed to be the former bed of

the *Euphrates*. It is by some said to be the ancient *Basra*, and derives its present name from *Zobeir*, who was defeated and slain in the Battle of the Camel, fought near this place.

The combined stream of the *Shat-ul-Arab* is generally believed to enter the *Persian Gulf* by a variety of mouths: but this idea is erroneous; and I trust I shall be able to prove, that this noble river has, at this moment, but one mouth, and, in all probability, never had any other. The mistake has, I apprehend, principally arisen from the remarks of navigators, who, ignorant of the existence, and, consequently, of the courses of the rivers of *Susianna*, and observing seven channels issuing from the Delta into the sea, at no great distance from each other, naturally concluded that they were so many derivations of the *Shat-ul-Arab*, the only stream with which they were acquainted. These channels, or as they are more commonly termed, *khores*, will be found, on an inspection of Mr. Cluer's chart, proceeding from West to East, in the following order: *Cossisa Bouny*, *Bamishere*, *Kuroon*, *Seluge*, *Mohilla*, *Goban*, and *Deria Bona*. Now as the *Bamishere* is next in succession, as well as next in magnitude, to the *Cossisa Bouny*, or *Shat-ul-Arab*, if I can make it appear that this channel, so far from being a branch of it, is not, in the most trifling degree, augmented by the waters of the latter, it is evident that none of the others can; for the cut of the *Hafur* is the only means of communication. The truth is, that the *Bamishere* is the main stream of the *Kuroon*: and to point out this in a still clearer light, it will be
necessary

necessary to repeat what I have formerly stated, in my description of *Kuzistan*, regarding that river. The *Karoon*, after its confluence with the *Abzal*, at *Bundikeel*, and before its first separation, contains, in my opinion, a greater body of waters than either the *Euphrates* or *Tigris*, separately considered. On its arrival at *Sabla*, a ruined village, thirty miles East of *Bussora*, it disunites; and the largest division, taking the name of *Hafur*, after a course of fourteen or fifteen miles, again separates. The greater proportion of the waters continuing their course in an oblique direction to the East, constitute the *Bamishere*, and the remainder enter the *Shat-ul-Arab*, through an artificial cut three miles in length. This artificial cut, I must once more declare, is the only communication which the *Shat-ul-Arab* has with the six eastern channels; and as the waters of the *Karoon* constantly flow through it into that river, not those of the *Shat-ul-Arab* into the *Karoon*, it is plain that neither the *Bamishere*, nor the other *khores*, are derived from the combined stream of the *Euphrates* and *Tigris*, which, on approaching the Gulf, receives the name of the *Cossisa Bouny*.

The five remaining channels are formed of the ramifications of the first division of the *Karoon*, which quitting the main stream of the *Sabla*, pursues an easterly course towards the Delta of *Goban*; and by the principal branch of the *Jerahi*, down which the Chab Sheikh usually conducted his piratical fleet into the Gulph. The *Bamishere*, previous to the period when Sheikh Solyman erected his *bund* at *Sabla*,

Sabla, was the channel generally navigated by ships bound to *Bussora*. They passed through the *Hafar* cut, which is at least a hundred and fifty yards in breadth, and at high water sufficiently deep to admit a vessel of any size.

It was, without doubt, the opinion of Arrian and Strabo, that the *Euphrates* formerly reached the sea by a separate channel, afterwards obstructed, and diverted by the citizens of *Orchoe*; and this system has been adopted by D'Anville, in his *Mémoire sur l'Euphrate et le Tigre*. But Dr. Vincent conceives the idea to be erroneous, and has endeavoured to shew that the canal of *Pallacopas*, passing within a short distance of the city of *Orchoe*, and entering the Gulph in the *Khore Abdallah*, was mistaken by the ancients for a mouth of the *Euphrates*.

The island, or delta, between the *Shat-ul-Arab* and the *Bamishere* (the ancient *Mesene*), was formerly included in the *Pashalick* of *Bagdad*; but having been conquered by Sheikh Solyman from the Turks, has remained in the possession of his successors. It is a low and fertile tract. The northern parts of it, towards the *Hafar*, are intersected by a number of canals, and is in a tolerable state of cultivation. Extensive ruins are visible in many places, and the borders of the *Shat-ul-Arab*, as far down as *Chubda*, are covered with date-trees.*

That

* I was encamped for six months on the banks of the *Karoon* and *Hafar*, and consequently had many opportunities of acquiring information concerning the rivers in this part of the country.

That portion of the *Pashalick* of *Bagdad* beyond the *Tigris* comprehends almost the whole of ancient *Assyria Proper*, and is now denominated the *Lower Kurdistan*: it extends from *Armenia* and the territories of the chief of *Julamerick* to the district of *Mendeli*, which is its frontier towards *Kuristan*. Surrounded, on the North and East, by lofty mountains, from which flow several great rivers and a vast number of lesser streams, this tract of country, and particularly that part of it North of the *Little Zab*, has been in every age a rich and productive province; and it still continues to supply *Bagdad*, *Mosul*, and the other cities, with corn, cattle, cheese, butter, dried fruits, and almost every other kind of provision. The country North of *Tooz-Khoorma*, a small town, forty-five leagues from *Bagdad*, on the road to *Mosul*, has a flourishing and picturesque appearance, being covered with towns, villages, and gardens of fruit-trees, and is in a much more improved state of cultivation than any other district which I have seen in this quarter of the world. That part of the province to the S. E. of *Tooz-Khoorma* is essentially different: the heat is more intense, and the soil more sandy; consequently less productive, and not so well peopled. The cultivation here, as in the *Jezira*, is confined to the environs of the villages, which are thinly scattered over the surface of a naked plain. The province is divided into the districts of *Solymania*, *Kerkook*, *Erbille*, *Amadea*, *Shahre-van*, *Zohaub*, *Betri*, and *Mendeli*, each of which has a separate *Hakem*, or governor. But he who resides at *Solymania* rules over the greatest portion of territory;

territory; and as he must, by birth, be a Kurd, usually assumes the title of *Pasha of Kurdistan*. *Amadia* pays no tribute to the *Pasha of Bagdad*, and is but nominally dependant on him.

The largest rivers in this province are the *Diala*, *Great Zab*, *Little Zab*, and *Odorneh*. The *Diala*, mentioned in history by the names of *Delos* and *Arha*, rises in the mountains behind *Solymania*, and taking a southerly course, receives the tribute of a vast number of smaller streams; and, about six or seven miles to the North of *Kuzil Roohat*, it unites with another river, almost equal in size, which has its source at the foot of the pass of *Kurren*. The *Diala*, now become a fine river, still continues its course to the South, and enters the *Tigris* about five miles above *Tauke Kesra*. During the summer it is fordable at *Bakooba*, nine leagues from *Bagdad*, on the road to *Kermanshaw*, and is near a hundred and fifty yards wide, at the place where a bridge of boats is thrown across it, for the convenience of travellers, just before it approaches the *Tigris*. The sources of the *Great Zab* (which is the *Zabatus* of Xenophon and *Lycus* of Ptolemy) are in the same range of hills, and contiguous to those of the *Diala*. It at first pursues a northerly course, when meeting with a small stream, which comes from the district of *Alhak*, it proceeds to the westward; unites with the *Hakiar*, or river of *Julamerick*, and then flowing in a S. W. direction, forms a junction with the *Hazir Su* (ancient *Bumadus*), and disembogues into the *Tigris* at *Toprukala*, fourteen *fursungs* below *Mosul*. The *Great Zab*, between *Mosul* and *Erbille*,